



Forest Plan Revision Kickoff Open House Report – 26 August 2016

This report covers the comments, questions, and responses from the Manti-La Sal National Forest's Plan Revision open houses, held in six communities near the Forest in the months of July and August 2016.



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United States Department of Agriculture

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Background

In July and August 2016, the Manti-La Sal National Forest kicked off the revision of its Forest Plan with a series of public open houses in communities near the Forest. The purpose of these open houses was to notify the public of the beginning of the Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revision, inform the public about the Plan Revision Process, and gather data concerning current Forest conditions.

This report provides an overview of these open houses—including the number of attendees and other statistics—highlights public comments, and provides answers to public questions concerning Plan Revision. In publishing this information, the Forest hopes to bolster transparency in the planning process, foster group learning, and emphasize the Forest's commitment to public participation during Plan Revision.

To achieve these goals, this report is comprised of four sections. To set the stage, the first section provides an overview of the open houses, including their format, the locations in which they were held, and the information the Forest collected and disseminated. The next section is an executive summary highlighting the key takeaways from the open houses, to include attendance statistics and an overview of public comments and Survey responses. The third section provides a detailed discussion of public comments collected at the open houses, categorizing them in 15 topical areas. Using these same 15 categories, the fourth section outlines answers to questions the Forest received from the public at the open houses. Finally, the report concludes with a brief summary of this report and next steps for public participation in the Plan Revision.

About the Open Houses:

The purpose of the July/August public open houses was to both notify and inform the public of the Plan Revision process and to gather initial data about Forest conditions. The Forest hosted the open houses from 6 July 2016 through 6 August 2016 at the following locations:

Date	Time	City	Location
11 July 2016	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Price	Carbon County Event Center, 310 S Fairgrounds Rd
19 July 2016	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Castle Dale	Emery County Courthouse, 75 E Main
21 July 2016	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Manti	Sanpete County Courthouse, 160 N Main St.
04 August 2016	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Blanding	Blanding Public Library, 25 W. 300 S.
05 August 2016	5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	Monticello	Canyon Country Discovery Center, 1117 N. Main St.

06 August 2016 10:00 AM Moab
– 12:00 PM

Grand Center,
182 N. 500 W.

Open house attendees were invited to show up at any time during the two-hour timeframe. Upon arrival at the open houses, attendees passed through a greeting station, where a Forest Service representative gathered their contact information on a sign-in sheet. The greeter, the Forest Plan Resource Information Specialist, then directed the attendees to one of three tables manned by the Forest Plan Revision Team Leader, Plan Revision Partnership Coordinator, or Plan Revision Wildlife Biologist. Each table provided attendees with the same handouts and information:

- September Open House Schedule: A schedule listing the dates, times, and locations of the Forest's September public open houses.
- Assessment Informational Flyer: A flyer explaining the 15 topical areas in which the Forest will be collecting data during the September Assessment open house
- Forest Plan Revision Informational Pamphlet: A tri-fold highlighting information about the Forest Plan revision process, including timeline, phases, and opportunities for public participation.
- July/August Open House Schedule: A schedule listing the dates, times, and location of the Forest's July and August public open houses.
- Public Survey/Comment Form: A public participation comment form that collected data concerning the ways in which the public uses the Forest; geographic areas of use; communication preferences; and information concerning current Forest conditions, including positive and negative trends.
- Q&A Form: A Question and Answer Form designed to collect questions from the public about plan revision.

In addition to receiving presentations from Forest Service personnel, the Forest Supervisor and District Rangers were present, interacting with the public and answering questions.

Summary of Findings

The following section provides a summary of the data collected at the July/August open houses and is broken down into two sub-sections. This first, titled *Open Houses by the Numbers*, provides statistical analysis of the data collected at the open houses, including the number of open house attendees and attendee responses to Survey questions. The second sub-section, titled *Summary of Comments*, provides a summary of the public comments collected at the open houses. A more detailed review of public comments, questions, and Survey responses is located in the second section of this report.

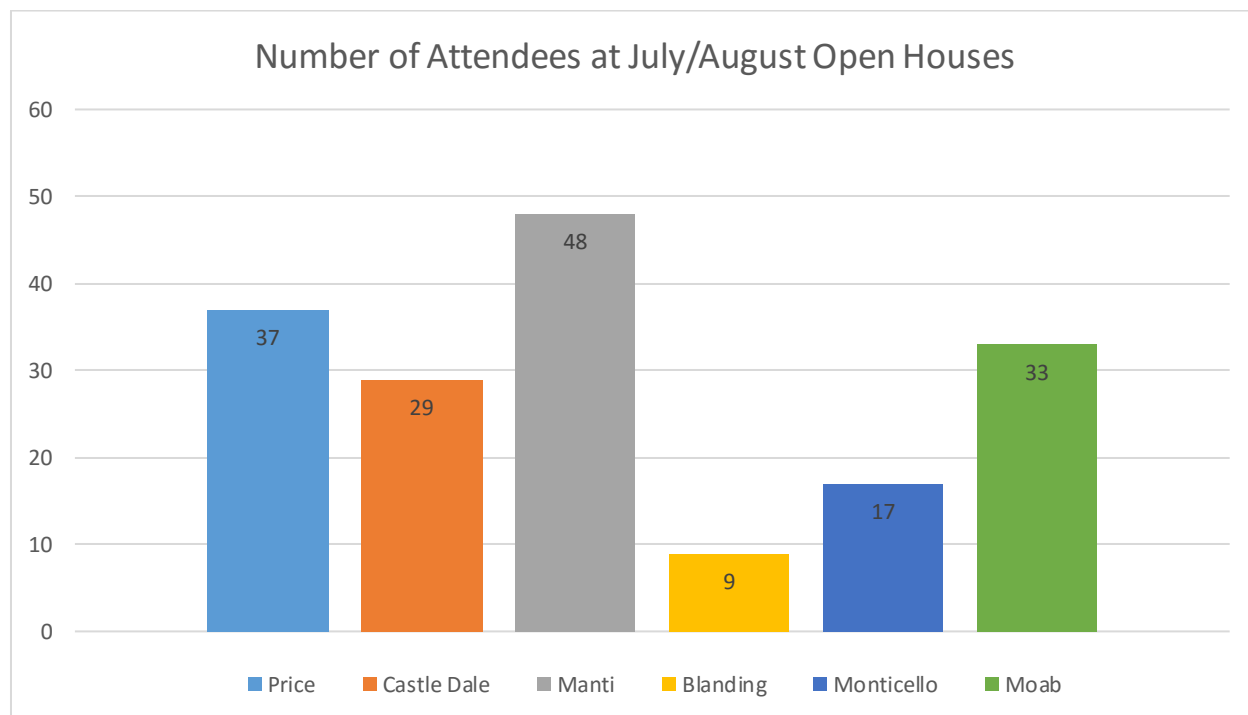
Open Houses by the Numbers

Attendance at the open houses eclipsed historical trends for attendance at Manti-La Sal National Forest public meetings, according to anecdotal evidence. For instance, the Forest's sage grouse meetings last year had an average attendance of ~5 individuals, while the July/August Plan Revision open houses averaged nearly 29 attendees per event, or a total of 173 attendees at six meeting locations.

Data Disclaimer

The views expressed in the public comments within this report are those of individual respondents and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the U.S. Forest Service, its employees, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, or the U.S. Government. By publishing these comments, the U.S. Forest Service is not endorsing any comment or individual and is not assuming or assuring the validity or reliability of any statements therein. Instead, the Forest is publishing comments in the spirit of transparency and to show the public how its input is being used.

Moreover, the data collected in this report was gathered during a short one-month time period from a small segment of Forest users. As such, the data contained in this report should not be construed as representative of broad public concurrence or consensus.



The reason for the higher turnout at the July/August open houses, compared to historical public meetings, likely is a result of increased public interest in land management issues due to an active political environment surrounding public land issues in Utah, as well as an aggressive outreach and marketing campaign by the Forest.

Survey and Comment Data

The Forest disseminated two forms at the open houses, on which the public provided input. The first was a Survey asking a series of questions, ranging from multiple choice to fill-in-the-blank:

- *How do you use the Forest? (circle all that apply)*
- *Have you noticed any trends (desirable or undesirable) on the Forest regarding wildlife, habitat, or the natural environment? If so, please use the space below to explain.*
- *How would you like to be notified of Forest Plan Revision updates? (circle all that apply)*
- *What role do you see yourself playing in the Forest Plan Revision process?*
- *What areas of the Manti-La Sal National Forest do you use?*

The second form was a Question and Answer (Q&A) form designed to collect Plan Revision-related questions from the public. The prompt for this form was:

- *In the space below, please list any outstanding questions you have about Forest Plan Revision. Answers will be posted publicly to the Manti-La Sal Forest Plan Revision webpage at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning>.*

While the Q&A prompt solicited questions, many respondents used the form to provide additional comments to the Forest. In reviewing the Q&A Forms, the Forest separated the comments from the questions, analyzing the comments with those collected on the Survey, while answering the questions (see section three).

Below is a summary of the data the Forest collected on the Survey Form, as well as the comments collected on the Q&A Form. A more detailed review of the Survey results, comments, and Q&A data is found in sections three and four, respectively.

A Note About the Data

The data below is presented with the Survey questions put forth by the Forest on the Survey Form, followed by a summary of answers and, where needed, information concerning data analysis techniques. The data is based on 65 Survey responses, though not every respondent answered all questions. Accordingly, some questions received fewer than 65 responses. Moreover, while most responses were collected at the open houses, the Forest received some responses via postal mail and email.

Because this report technically covers the July/August open houses, readers may wonder why the Forest chose to include input in this report that it received outside of the open houses. The reason for doing so was twofold. First, some individuals interested in attending the open houses were

unable to do so. In the spirit of maximizing public participation, the Forest chose to accept such responses collected during the one-month timeframe during which the open houses were held (06 July 2016 – 06 August 2016) and up until the data cutoff date for this report (15 August 2016). Secondly, many open house attendees did not finish their Surveys and Q&A Forms at the open houses and asked that the Forest accept them via email or postal mail at a later date. Again, such responses received prior to the 15 August 2016 cutoff date are included in this report. Responses received after this date will be included in a future report.

Q1: How do you use the Forest? (check all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Hiking	80.00%	52
Mineral Extraction	7.69%	5
Timber	13.85%	9
Hunting	50.77%	33
ATV/OHV	53.85%	35
Horseback Riding	21.54%	14
Alpine Skiing/Cross-Country Skiing/Snowboarding/Snowshoeing	21.54%	14
Biking	33.85%	22
Fishing	63.08%	41
Rock Climbing	6.15%	4
Grazing	20.00%	13
Snowmobiling	18.46%	12
Photography	61.54%	40
Kayaking	3.08%	2
Scientific Research	12.31%	8
Camping	84.62%	55
Permittee	9.23%	6
Cultural/Traditional Use	10.77%	7
Fuel Wood Gathering	44.62%	29
Sightseeing	66.15%	43
Total Respondents: 65		

Table 1- Forest Uses: *Recreation* outpaced all other uses by open house attendees, with camping and hiking being the top uses.

Q2: Have you noticed any trends (desirable or undesirable) on the Forest regarding wildlife, habitat, or the natural environment? If so, please use the space below to explain.

After reviewing and analyzing each comment to this question, the Forest categorized comments in one of 15 topical areas (below), according to the substance/nature of the comment. For instance, comments about trails or access issues were placed in the Travel Mgmt./Access topic category, while comments about current Forest policies or management performance were placed in the Management topic category, and so on. In instances where comments involved more than one topic, such as long answers addressing several resource areas, the Forest placed the comment in more than one topic category. Accordingly, while some comments were placed in only one topic category, others were placed in up to 12 topic categories.

- Biodiversity
- Cultural/Historical
- Grazing/Range
- Recreation
- Water
- Climate Change
- Economic
- Management
- Timber
- Wilderness and WSR
- Communication
- Fire
- Minerals
- Travel Mgmt./Access
- Wildlife

Table 2 - Topic Categories

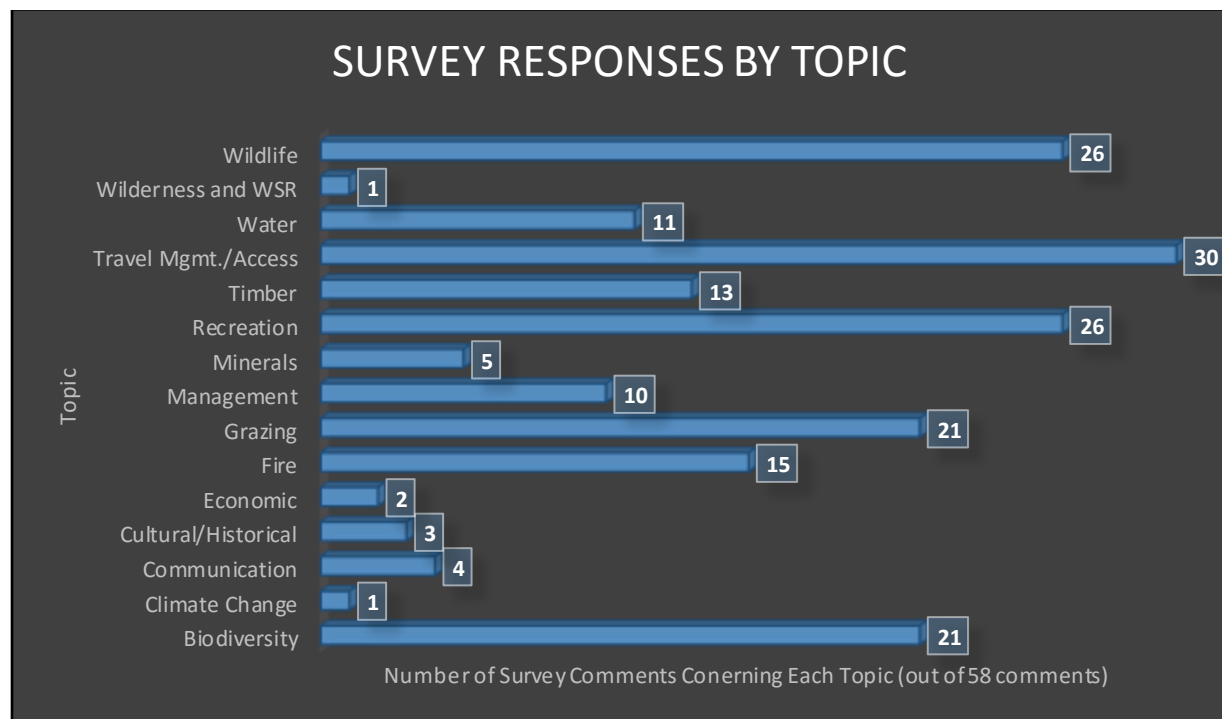


Figure 1- Survey Responses by Topic: Travel Management, Recreation, Wildlife, and Grazing were the predominant areas of concern for attendees

Q3: How would you like to be notified of Forest Plan Revision updates? (check all that apply)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Public Meetings	66.10%	39
Radio	33.90%	20
Flyers/handouts	11.86%	7
Newspaper	54.24%	32
Social Media	27.12%	16
Forest Service Webpage	22.03%	13
Email	72.88%	43
Postal Mail	35.59%	21
Through Local Government	18.64%	11
Word of Mouth	10.17%	6
Total Respondents: 59		

Table 3 – Communication Preferences: Attendees were most receptive to email, public meetings, and newspaper notices. Of note, the Forest's social media pages (Facebook and Twitter) eclipsed the Manti-La Sal National Forest webpage, indicating a possible trend toward non-traditional platforms.

Q4: What role do you see yourself playing in the Plan Revision process?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Significant Role - I plan to attend all public meetings in and out of my home area and want to be kept up-to-date on all Plan Revision progress.	26.32%	15
Mostly Involved - I plan to try to attend all public meetings in my area and want to be notified of most Plan Revision updates.	45.61%	26
Somewhat Involved - I will attend only the most important public meetings in my area and want to be notified only at the key milestones of the process, such as during the Environmental Analysis.	21.05%	12
Limited Involvement - This is probably the only public meeting I will attend. I do not want to receive any Plan Revision notifications.	3.51%	2
Undecided - I do not know what role I want to play.	3.51%	2
Total		57

Table 4 – Desired Plan Revision Role: Attendees were mostly committed to continuing their involvement in the Plan Revision, a possible indicator that they perceived their attendance at the open houses was meaningful given responses were provided after interacting with Forest Service personnel. However, data was collected from those who likely are most interested (attendees) and thus almost certainly does not represent the broader public's sentiments.

Q5: What areas of the Manti-La Sal National Forest do you use? (check all that apply)

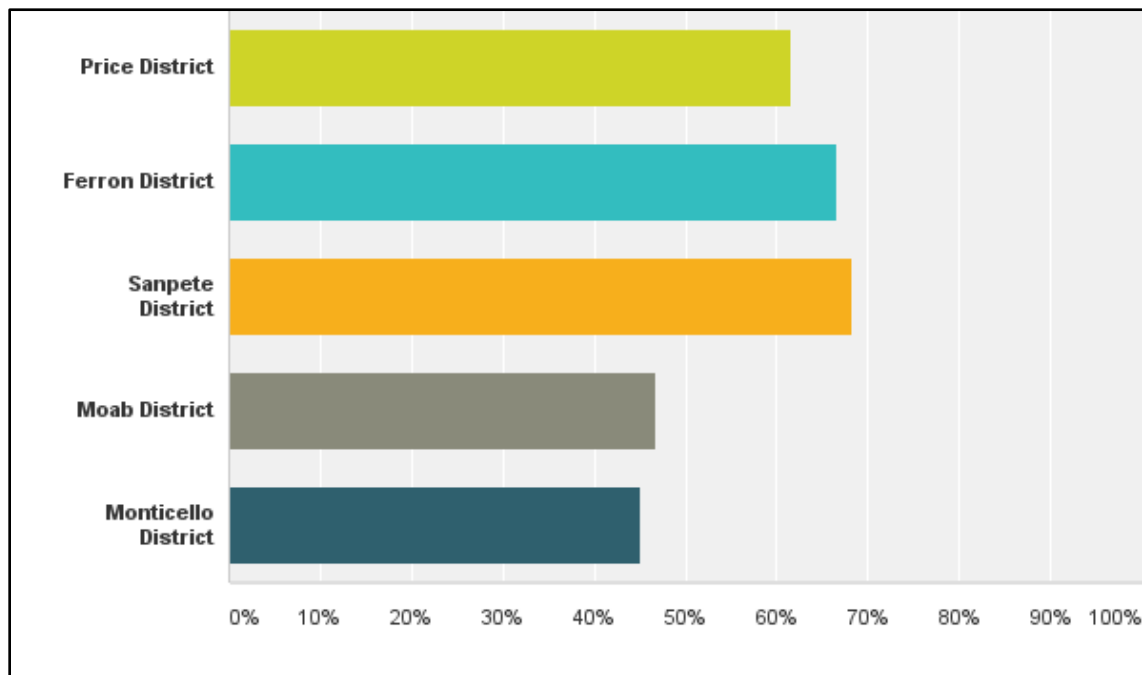


Figure 2 – Geographic Areas of Use: *Despite the non-contiguous, expansive geographic area of the Forest, geographical use patterns were fairly balanced, with North Zone attendees using the South Zone (and vice versa), especially when considering the data relative to number of Surveys collected at each event. For instance, we would expect to see a higher number of users of the Sanpete District and other North Zone districts, given the higher attendance numbers and Surveys collected at North Zone open houses. Overall, the wide area of use by respondents from various geographic areas highlights the Forest's importance in communities extending far beyond those in close proximity to any one area.*

As previously mentioned, many respondents (26) used the Q&A Form to submit additional comments instead of questions. The Forest analyzed comments collected on Q&A Forms in the same manner as those collected on the Survey, according to the 15 topic categories outlined above, based on each comment's content.

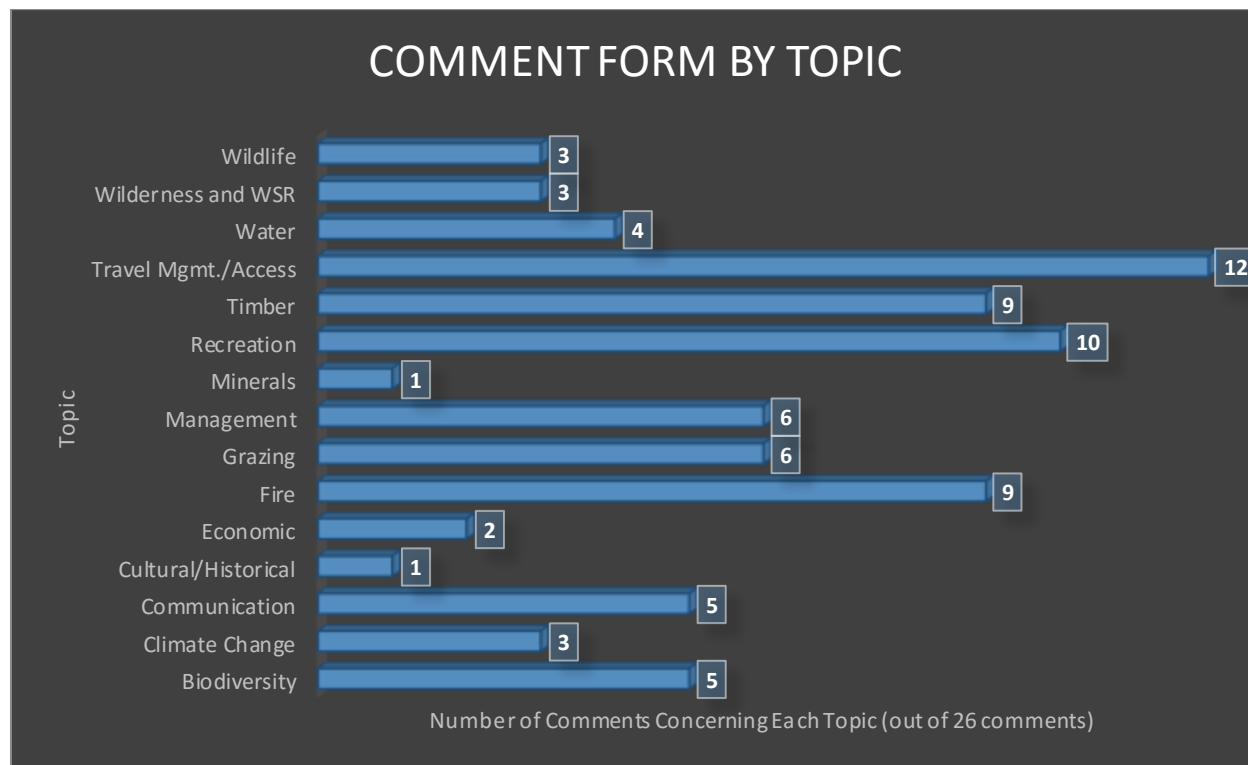


Figure 3 – Q&A Comments by Topic: Again, *Travel Management/Access* was a primary concern for respondents, as was *Fire*, *Timber*, and *Recreation*.

Summary of Comments

This sub-section provides an overview of the public comments received by the Forest at the July/August open houses. As previously mentioned, after reviewing and analyzing each comment, the Forest categorized comments in one of 15 topical areas, according to the substance/nature of the comment. For instance, comments mentioning fire hazards were placed under the topic of fire; comments concerning noxious weeds and non-native plants were placed in the *Biodiversity* topic; and so on. In summarizing public comments, the Forest attempted to highlight opposing viewpoints in each topic category in an effort to provide a comprehensive review of comments received.

1. Biodiversity

Respondents in nearly every community expressed concern over the growth of non-native plant species to the Forest, particularly cheatgrass and musk thistle. Attendees also noted concern over

the ecological impacts of the introduction of exotic wildlife on the Forest, particularly non-native mountain goats in the La Sal Mountains, and increased recreation.

Similarly, the Forest received several comments concerning a perceived decline in Aspen stands as a result of conifer invasion. Much like the exotic plants and animals, respondents were concerned this trend was negatively affecting ecosystem diversity, leading to monoculture environments in some areas.

2. Climate Change

Climate change proved to be a polarizing issue across stakeholder and geographic areas. Climate change adherents noted their concern about climate change and its implications on the Forest, while climate change skeptics questioned the science behind climate change and its use as a variable in Plan Revision.

3. Communication

Most respondents thought the Forest did an adequate job of communicating Forest Plan Revision information to the public, though the Forest received several recommendations for how to improve public outreach. Some respondents, particularly in the South Zone where the Forest rescheduled open houses, were displeased with the amount of notice they were given about the open houses, a point the Forest will take into consideration for future events.

4. Cultural/Historical

All communities were unanimous in their desire to protect the cultural and historic treasures on the Forest. Respondents were particularly concerned over what they perceived as a lack of Forest Service capacity to guard these sites.

5. Economic

Respondents at every open house noted the Forest's important economic role in their local community and, more broadly, the State of Utah. Attendees in many communities noted that their livelihood depends upon the Forest, particularly for grazing, mining, and recreation.

6. Fire

Like climate change, respondents were divided on the issue of fire, particularly its use as a management tool. Some individuals considered prescribed burns a useful and necessary management tool, while others viewed it as an existential threat, especially those affected by flooding following the Seeley Fire and those living near the Forest boundary. Similarly, some respondents perceived the Forest was ill-equipped to manage fire and thus should refrain from prescribed burns.

However, while the public was split on the use of fire as a management tool, the public was nearly unanimous in its belief that fuel loads on the Forest are too high as a result of hot/dry conditions and the preponderance of beetle kill trees.

7. Grazing/Range

Much like climate change and fire, respondents were divided on grazing. Some viewed grazing as a critical economic resource and as an effective management tool in the removal of undergrowth, while others viewed it as detrimental to the Forest's ecosystems, particularly

riparian areas, aspen stands, and native vegetation on which livestock feed. Others also noted their displeasure with the presence of livestock in recreational areas.

Respondents were also split on the Forest's grazing policies. Some individuals lamented the Forest's grazing on and off times, perceiving them as too short and/or arbitrary and wanting to see an expansion of permits, while others advocated for shorter grazing, or none at all, and a reduction in the number of permits issued.

8. Management

Respondents were split on the Forest's management performance and policies. Some user groups were particularly critical of the Forest, alleging the Forest lacked the requisite resources to effectively manage Forest lands, particularly in the area of enforcement, and had mismanaged fires. Moreover, while some respondents were supportive of multi-uses on the Forest, others sought to limit uses to preserve some areas.

While there was disagreement, the public concurred on their desire to see the Forest use the best available science information (BASIS) during the Forest Plan Revision. Though, the Forest noted disagreements between respondents on what constituted BASIS.

9. Minerals

Respondents were split on mineral exploration on the Forest. Some respondents saw mining as a detriment to soil, water, and recreation activities, while others viewed it as a critical resource for local economies and sought expanded mineral extraction.

10. Recreation

Public comments about recreation indicate an across-the-board increase in recreational activity on the Forest. Respondents were split, however, on whether such increases were positive or negative. Those who viewed increased recreation as a positive trend were in favor of the Forest undertaking additional recreational projects to further increase recreation—such as building additional facilities and trails. Many of these respondents also viewed recreation as a key economic boon for local communities.

Those on the opposite spectrum viewed expanded recreation—particularly increases in UTV and mountain bike use—as detrimental to the Forest, noting recreation's risks to wildlife, vegetation, and the safety of other Forest users. Lastly, some users highlighted what they perceived to be declining Forest recreational access and facilities compared to years past.

11. Timber

Respondents in the North Zone were overwhelmingly in favor of expanding the Forest's timber program and a loosening of logging restrictions to assist in the removal of deadwood from beetle kill and the Seeley Fire. Moreover, respondents noted their heightened concern over the increased fire risk on the Forest due to the preponderance of deadwood. The Forest received fewer timber-related comments from the South Zone, though some individuals there noted a desire for enhanced protection of the Forest's trees.

12. Travel Management/Access

Like some of the other topics, respondents were split over the issue of access and travel management. Some communities noted their concern with road closures and sought expanded access. On the other end of the spectrum, some users expressed their pleasure with road closure and proposed the Forest shutter additional roads to protect habitats and Forest ecosystems. Those with such sentiments generally noted their desire to protect the Forest's ecosystems from disturbance by UTVs and other motorized vehicles.

Many of those in favor of expanded access requested the Forest expand its 50" trail width limitation to 60" and beyond, stating that doing so would enhance recreational activities and thus bring an influx of money to local economies. Other users in this group sought expanded access to facilitate the enjoyment of Forest resources specifically by those with disabilities.

13. Water

Most communities were unanimous in their desire to protect watersheds within the Forest. Some respondents noted concerns over mining and grazing activities negatively affecting water resources. Others also noted concerns over diminishing water resources and snow pack resulting from climate change.

14. Wilderness and WSR

As was the case with travel management and access, the public was split in two camps regarding Wilderness designations: those in favor of additional designations; and those opposed. Supporters of expanded Wilderness generally sought to protect wild areas and lessen the impact other uses have on sensitive areas. Those who opposed Wilderness designations did so out of fear of losing access for other uses, particularly grazing, recreation, and access by disabled individuals who rely on motorized vehicles.

15. Wildlife

Attendees noted changing wildlife population levels in virtually every portion of the Forest. Of note, respondents noted a decrease in deer populations and an uptick in elk populations. Some respondents also noted an increase in predator populations, such as bears and mountain lions, which some blamed for the decrease in deer numbers.

Some attendees noted an increase in wildlife stressors resulting from the expansion of recreation activities in wildlife habitats. Respondents also noted their concern with the introduction of exotic wildlife species to the Forest, such as the State of Utah's introduction of mountain goats near the La Sal Mountains, stating that these species were damaging biodiversity in sensitive alpine areas.

In sum, while the public was divided on topics—including climate change, fire, grazing, Wilderness, among others—there were a few notable areas of concurrence, such as a general appreciation for the social and economic importance of the Forest. Accordingly, while there are many disagreements on how the Forest should be managed, there was a general sentiment toward conserving the Forest for use and enjoyment by current and future generations.

The next sections of this report provides a more in-depth treatment of the public comments the Forest received at the July/August open houses and answers to the many questions received.

Public Comments

This section provides a more detailed look at the public comments collected by the Forest during the July/August Plan Revision meetings. Public comments were received through a Survey and a Question and Answer Form disseminated at the open houses. Most of these forms were collected at the open houses; however, some respondents chose to mail or email their forms to the Forest following the meetings. The format of those forms, including the questions contained within them, can be found in the first section of this report.

As mentioned in the previously, the Forest categorized public comments in one—or several—of 15 topical areas, based on the content of each comment. The Forest then further categorized comments in sub-categories, based on the tone of each comment. For instance, in the *Grazing* topic, some respondents sought expanded grazing opportunities while other sought more regulations on grazing. To address such differences, these comments were organized in separate sub-topics and summarized accordingly in the paragraphs preceding public comments.

It is important to note that some respondents provided detailed comments spanning several different topical and sub-topical areas. In these instances, the Forest separated individual responses into their appropriate topical and sub-topical section, taking great care to avoid taking comments out of context. In doing this, the Forest placed some topics in more than one category. As such, readers may notice some redundancy. Again, this was a purposeful decision by the Forest, intended to reduce the likelihood that comments were taken out of context.

To improve readability and ensure comments retained their original context, the Forest added conjunctions, prepositions, and other connective tissue as comments were rearranged. These additions are denoted in the *italicized* comment text with brackets [].

Overall, respondents disagreed along ideological lines in many topical areas—such as grazing, fire, and travel management, among others—though virtually all respondents agreed that the new Forest Plan must ensure the persistence of the Forest and its resources for current and future generations. Though, there was strict disagreement on how to achieve this end.

1. Biodiversity

Respondents in nearly every community expressed concern over the growth of non-native plant species to the Forest, particularly cheatgrass and musk thistle. Attendees also noted concern over the ecological impacts of the introduction of exotic wildlife on the Forest, particularly non-native mountain goats in the La Sal Mountains, and increased recreation.

Similarly, the Forest received several comments concerning a perceived decline in Aspen stands as a result of conifer invasion. Much like the exotic plants and animals, respondents were concerned this trend was negatively affecting ecosystem diversity, leading to monoculture environments in some areas.

Increase of Non-Native Plant Species and Noxious Weeds

- *The plan should include an aggressive plan of attack on threatening/non-native plant species. Any identification of insects or bark beetles should be aggressively attacked.*
- *[I have] ...noted increased invasive weeds in some of the canyons like Hammond.*
- *[I have noticed a] loss or decline of native species.*
- *[I have noticed an] increase in invasive weeds around roads and trails.*
- *Noxious weed thistles taking over the burn scar in Huntington Canyon - Candland Mt.*
- *[I have noticed] increases in bromus tectorum (cheatgrass)*
- *We... have concern over the proliferation of noxious weeds, particularly musk thistle. In places, it is so thick as to impede equestrian or hiking use of existing trails.*
- *[I have noticed] large patches of potentillasp. + Heterotheca villosa in meadows outcompeting grasses.*
- *[I have noticed a] large presence of non-native grasses along roads and in some meadows.*
- *[I have noticed the] spread of vegetation unpalatable to livestock (e.g., Iris missouriensis, lupine species, cheatgrass after brief green period; water birch/alder in riparian areas where cottonwood/willows/aspen are readily eaten; dandelion in meadows), which translates to increasing pressure on remaining palatable/native vegetation.*
- *[I have noticed a] spread of rhizomatous, seeded, exotic pasture grasses (e.g., smooth brome, timothy, Kentucky bluegrass) coupled with a lack of tools to reverse the spread.*
- *Riparian systems continue to be degraded. Cheat grass seems to be moving up in elevation. Too much emphasis seems to be on actions and permitted uses rather than retaining native species.*
- *Forest stands, and especially Mountain shrubs, have become denser and historically shrub and grasslands-dominated areas have been overtaken by invasive species...*

Diversity Degradation/Decreasing Aspen/Rise of Monoculture

- *Conifer invasion [is] decreasing open areas and aspen groves...*
- *[The] majority of aspen [is] old and dying. Many aspen woodlands [are] transitioning to evergreens.*
- *[I have noticed the] increasing age of willow/cottonwood/aspen lacking recruitment on low-gradient, cattle accessible areas.*
- *The vegetation [in the Forest] is becoming very much of a mono-culture. [There are] very few young Aspen.*
- *[I have noticed a] deterioration of meadows especially off the Geyser Pass Road.*

Increased Stressors

- *[I have noticed] increasing diversity and intensity of user pressures e.g., # of all recreational visitors, # of motorized vehicles with greater technological capacity to cause damage.*
- *[A] decrease [in] pollinators... coupled with (1) lack of FS knowledge of pollinator species, population trends on the MLSNF [and] (2) annual, heavy livestock use (60% utilization is allowed) [is] annually reducing diverse, native flowers for pollinators.*
- *[I have noticed the] destruction/consumption of native alpine vegetation by exotic goats in the Mount Peale Research Natural Area.*

2. Climate Change

Climate change proved to be a polarizing issue across stakeholder and geographic areas. Climate change adherents noted their concern about climate change and its implications on the Forest, while climate change skeptics questioned the science behind climate change and its use as a variable in Plan Revision.

Climate Change Proponents

- *Global warming [has caused] ...rising temperatures; increased rain-snow ratio; drought [over] the majority of the past 15 years in the Colorado River drainage; earlier snowmelt; reduction of late season flows; and drying of springs/ponds (e.g., Duck Lake).*
- *All areas need management that will increase resilience in the face of global warming.*
- *The ecological effects on climate change should mean that all logging and destruction of this forest must and should stop immediately.*
- *The August 1, 2016 Memorandum for Heads of Federal Departments and Agencies from CEQ gives guidance on how to consider global greenhouse gas in decisions. This guidance should be a meaningful part of this forest plan revision.*

Climate Change Opponents

- *Climate change can cause a lot trouble in a lot of ways and it is not going to be a good thing in the forest plan.*
- *I do not believe that there is enough evidence to justify climate change has impacted the forest to be considered for the plan revision.*

3. Communication

Most respondents thought the Forest did an adequate job of communicating Forest Plan Revision information to the public, though the Forest received several recommendations for how to improve public outreach. Some respondents, particularly in the South Zone where the Forest rescheduled open houses, were displeased with the amount of notice they were given about the open houses, a point the Forest will take into consideration for future events.

Outreach Recommendations

- *[The Forest should use a] phone Survey – Randomly pick people to call – to get info [to support Plan Revision].*
- *Apps to use for maps and trails would be good. They could be used with Google map overlays.*
- *I would like to see educational signs that teach people from the city and around the country the importance of using the resources [on the Forest].*

Feedback on Forest Service Outreach Efforts

- *Communication lines have been improving, getting better.*
- *[There was] not enough notice for first public meeting - 3 day notice via email from Blanding City, published in local paper day of event. [In the future, it] might be good to put documents/notices at Blanding City office and/or Visitor Center.*

4. Cultural/Historical

All communities were unanimous in their desire to protect the cultural and historic treasures on the Forest. Respondents were particularly concerned over what they perceived as a lack of Forest Service capacity to guard these sites.

Concern Over Protection of Historic, Cultural Sites

- *[There is a] lack of enforcement capability to protect cultural resources, repair ecological damage.*
- *Historical structures and trails should be protected, including from natural or prescribed fires.*

5. Economic

Respondents at every open house noted the Forest's important economic role in their local community and, more broadly, the State of Utah. Attendees in many communities noted that their livelihood depends upon the Forest, particularly for grazing, mining, and recreation.

Forest Lands Are Critical to Nearby Economies

- *The entire forest provides economic vitality to the rest of the State and specifically in the local economy... Grazing, mining, timber, watershed, oil and gas all contribute to our standard of living locally and nationally.*
- *The forest plan should include aspects to foster a wide variety of multiple uses. These uses have a substantial impact on the economic conditions of Emery County. The Arapahoe OHV Trail System is one of the premier trail systems in the State of Utah. Users from Utah and from across the United States come here to enjoy this trail system. Grazing, mining and logging also has an impact on our economic stability within the region.*
- *I anticipate a continued shift by Forest Service away from multiple-use and towards wilderness—roadless management philosophy. That move will continue to destroy the economy*

of rural Utah...

6. Fire

Like climate change, respondents were divided on the issue of fire, particularly its use as a management tool. Some individuals considered prescribed burns a useful and necessary management tool, while others viewed it as an existential threat, especially those affected by flooding following the Seeley Fire and those living near the Forest boundary. Similarly, some respondents perceived the Forest was ill-equipped to manage fire and thus should refrain from prescribed burns.

However, while the public was split on the use of fire as a management tool, the public was nearly unanimous in its belief that fuel loads on the Forest are too high as a result of hot/dry conditions and the preponderance of beetle kill trees.

Proponents of Using Fire As a Management Tool

- *[I would like to see] more controlled burns!!*
- *Fire suppression should be an active part of the plan to protect structures, trails and wildlife habitat. In addition prescribed burns within reason should be used in appropriate areas to enhance the overall health of the ecosystem.*
- *The Forest needs disturbance (logging or fire) to maintain balance and health. Managing to 'indicator species' while ignoring the major health threats is not working.*
- *Disturbance is needed, either natural fire, prescribe burning, herbicide or mechanical treatments. A prime example is the Sagebrush treatments and seedings on Sage Flat in the 1950's. It has progressed through the seral stages and has now reverted to old decadent stands.*

Opponents of Using Fire As a Management Tool

- *[There are] too many controlled fires becoming uncontrollable. I think that recent clearing, thinning and burning has had an undesirable impact on the Forest north of Blanding.*
- *We... request the Manti-La Sal National Forest desist in any prescribed burning and... that any wildfire be immediately extinguished until appropriate and adequate thinning, blocking, and firebreaks have been created throughout our watershed.*
- *No more fires - our home was flooded after fires in Huntington Canyon. Every time it rains more destruction.*
- *[The policy of] "let it burn" along with no timber management has been very devastating to our infrastructure with severe flooding.*

Concern Over High Fuel Loads

- *[I have noticed an] increase of fuel loads.*
- *Fuel loads are way high.*

- *Beetle killed trees are not being removed expeditiously, resulting in fire danger, the likes of which occurred during the Huntington fire.*
- *Conifer invasion [is] decreasing open areas and aspen groves; more prescribed burns would be great.*
- *[I have noticed a] continuing trend to catastrophic fuel loads... This contributes to risk to local WUI homeowner[s]. It also increases the risk to watershed throughout Sanpete County...*

7. Grazing/Range

Much like climate change and fire, respondents were divided on grazing. Some viewed grazing as a critical economic resource and as an effective management tool in the removal of undergrowth, while others viewed it as detrimental to the Forest's ecosystems, particularly riparian areas, aspen stands, and native vegetation on which livestock feed. Others also noted their displeasure with the presence of livestock in recreational areas.

Respondents were also split on the Forest's grazing policies. Some individuals lamented the Forest's grazing on and off times, perceiving them as too short and/or arbitrary and wanting to see an expansion of permits, while others advocated for shorter grazing, or none at all, and a reduction in the number of permits issued.

Concerns About Grazing Harming the Forest

- *Decreasing FS budget... [makes] it impossible to sufficiently manage increasing recreational use and livestock grazing (100% of the MLSNF is active grazing allotments) so that resource damage does not occur.*
- *Cattle and sheep need to be removed from forest property earlier than normal to protect watershed, prevent overgrazing, and to avoid conflict with various hunting seasons.*
- *I am concerned about how late cattle are left on the mountain for grazing and the damage to springs caused by cattle.*
- *[There is] too much cattle and sheep grazing [on the Forest].*
- *At times there has been over-grazing.*
- *[It] seems like some users of the Forest leave livestock on the range too long in some areas.*
- *[I have noticed] evidence of over grazing - cows are eating too much vegetation down to the ground and leaving so much excrement, which detracts from hiking experience.*
- *I have noticed increased cattle grazing on the forest, including on the Skyline and Tuerto trails.*
- *I wonder if the number of cows [on the Forest] can be decreased.*
- *Over the last few years the cattle are doing more and more damage to habitat around Warner Lake, tromping down meadows and streams. They are in the camp ground area as well.*

- *[I have noticed] grazing impact on hiking etc. and general condition of range permittee lands.*
- *[I have noticed] aspen and willows not being able to reach maturity due to browsing (cattle, elk, deer).*
- *[There are] not enough areas that are free of grazing and so have a natural grasses, aspen, willows, etc.*
- *[I have noticed] springs that are not protected well and are trampled by cattle.*

Grazing as a Positive Forest Management Tool

- *Livestock allocations need to stay the same or increase. If not, you have grass out there that is just going to burn.*
- *I would like to see that the livestock grazing continues to ensure that we can properly control the under growth, as well as fuels to help reduce catastrophic wildfires.*

Forest Service Grazing Policies

- *[Grazing] utilization trends are stable to increasing in many areas.*
- *You need to make it easier to adjust the grazing on/off dates. Right now they are hard dates and sometimes they're okay but sometimes they don't make sense.*
- *The spread of larkspur all over the mountain threaten[s] the cattle. Decrease in permittee (cattle) time and numbers... don't appear to be based on science.*
- *I am concerned with the recreation coming in and harming areas for livestock. The people are pushing the livestock out of the area.*
- *[I have noticed] some grazing improvement [on the Forest].*

8. Management

Respondents were split on the Forest's management performance and policies. Some user groups were particularly critical of the Forest, alleging the Forest lacked the requisite resources to effectively manage Forest lands, particularly in the area of enforcement, and had mismanaged fires. Moreover, while some respondents were supportive of multi-uses on the Forest, others sought to limit uses to preserve some areas.

While there was disagreement, the public concurred on their desire to see the Forest use the best available science information (BASI) during the Forest Plan Revision. Though, the Forest noted disagreements between respondents on what constituted BASI.

Multi-Use

- *I would like to address that the mountain needs to remain multi-use. We need to all get along...*
- *[The] Forest Service has moved away from their "sustained yield, multiple-use" mandate. Forest management has taken on a national park or wilderness or roadless mentality. THIS IS NOT what Forests were set aside for. There is a reason [the] Forest Service is under direction*

of the Department of AGRICULTURE. Please return to your original mandate. We must utilize the resources found on FS-managed lands, i.e. timber, coal, oil, gas, wildlife, vegetation for grazing, camping, fishing, hunting... I believe that Forest Service and Federal Government have already determined their desired outcome and only go thru this ""public comments"" process because it is legally required by FLPMA/NEPA.

Need to Limit Uses to Protect the Forest

- [The] Abajo and La Sal Ranges are very small and beautiful. Limiting land use to any one group may be needed to maintain.*
- [There are] too many conflicting uses in this small of area.*
- Forest Service Enforcement*
- [The Forest Service] response to [my] call about cows in Warner Lake Campground... was fast (next day)*

Appreciation for Forest Management

- ...last summer (2015) a number of trouble trees were removed [by the Forest] that could have been a danger to our cabin.*
- Hiking trails on the La Sals are looking very good.*
- The current Forest service plan adequately addresses air, soil and water.*

Forest Management Concerns

- The mismanagement of the Forest Service after the fires caused my whole street to be flooded.*
- [I have noticed a] lack of enforcement capability to protect cultural resources, repair ecological damage.*
- The FS and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources need to develop a clearer relationship regarding wildlife and habitat.*
- ...I have seen an undesirable trend effecting the natural environment: the disregard for the August 2014 report from the Fishlake, Dixie, and Manti-La Sal National Forests titled Initial Review of Livestock Grazing Effects on Select Ecosystems of the Dixie, Fishlake, and Manti-La Sal NFs... What a disregard for the taxpayers and our investment in the report The recent trend of conveniently ignoring inconvenient information and guidance is deeply disturbing!!! Additionally, the... MOU gives the counties confidential communications which undermine the open public process and encourage bullying and unhealthy influence.*
- [I am] concerned about [the] ability to access wood permits... Only one person in Monticello sells them and she is rarely in the office. Maybe [the Forest could] partner with [the] Blanding Visitor's Center to sell permits?*

Fees

- Forest use fee permits have increased 450-500% during the past 4 years (the increase was \$400 to \$760 to \$2,150 for 2016).*

- *[There seems to be] less services and facilities for more money... and more restrictions.*
- *New pay camping sites are welcome. [I am] glad to see them. [I] hope more will come in the future.*

Focus on Best Available Science Information

- *[The] Forest should set the desired conditions for specific Riparian community types and Upland vegetation types based on current science...*
- *It is essential to analyze the existing long term trend data on hand, then base management decisions... on actual data rather than preconceived observations.*
- *[In revising the Forest Plan, the Forest should] define desired conditions necessary to maintain the riparian, aquatic, and sagebrush grassland ecosystems based on the best available science.*

9. Minerals

Respondents were split on mineral exploration on the Forest. Some respondents saw mining as a detriment to soil, water, and recreation activities, while others viewed it as a critical resource for local economies and sought expanded mineral extraction.

Mining

- *...Asphalt roads, energy pad construction, exploration, disturbance, mining activity, have all closed down canyons to recreation (e.g. Rilda, Frandall, Deer Creek).*
- *[I would like to see] no or very little mining activity.*
- *[I] would like to see cultural/traditional uses, recreational uses continue and no mining, timber [harvesting].*
- *The [Forest] plan needs to continue to allow mineral extraction and exploration.*

10. Recreation.

Public comments about recreation indicate an across-the-board increase in recreational activity on the Forest. Respondents were split, however, on whether such increases were positive or negative. Those who viewed increased recreation as a positive trend were in favor of the Forest undertaking additional recreational projects to further increase recreation—such as building additional facilities and trails. Many of these respondents also viewed recreation as a key economic boon for local communities.

Those on the opposite spectrum viewed expanded recreation—particularly increases in UTV and mountain bike use—as detrimental to the Forest, noting recreation’s risks to wildlife, vegetation, and the safety of other Forest users. Lastly, some users highlighted what they perceived to be declining Forest recreational access and facilities compared to years past.

Recreation Access, Facility Concerns

- *I don't want to lose open camping or atv trails.*
- *[I have noticed a] loss or decline of camping space and restroom facilities.*
- *[There is a] lack of water [at] Warner [Campground].*

Recreation Negatively Affecting Forest, Other Groups

- *[I have noticed] increased users in general (mountain bikers, hikers, skiers, hunters, etc.). [I have also noticed] heavier usage of campsites... and people leaving campers long-term (not limiting to 2 weeks).*
- *Recreational shooting and running present a hazard to other users.*

Mountain biking Negatively Affecting Other user Groups

- *There are enough mt. bike trails! It is tiring to walk a trail and experience multiple "near misses" because mt. bikes are speeding through.*
- *[I have noticed] increased use by bikes - especially by outfitters - the customers think because they've paid, they "own" the trail. [Hearing] "This is a bike trail" [from bikers] is common.*
- *Bike trails, which most trails now are, are difficult to hike on, as bikes cause ruts... loose rocks, etc.*
- *Shared sections of hiking trails at times overwhelmed with bikers/outfitters.*
- *Proliferation of mountain bike trails is displacing wildlife and hikers - need to limit.*

Concern Over Increased UTV Use

- *[The] Forest [is] being over used for 4-wheeling and camping.*
- *I have noticed increased noise from ATV use.*
- *[I have noticed a negative] increase [in] UTV noise... [and] trailers left unoccupied for long periods of time.*
- *Increases in motorized vehicles [is] negatively impacting other user groups.*
- *[I have noticed] more recreational uses, particularly OHVs... and more off-road campers on Elk Ridge. It feels crowded even on weekdays.*
- *Recreation use of the National Forest is expanding with heavy use by the motorized trail riders... This increased use is... putting stress on the existing roads and increasing dust released into the air.*

Recreational Expansion

- *[I have seen a desirable] ...increase in ATV/UHV use. I have noticed most are well mannered and respectful.*
- *[I] would like to see...recreational uses continue...*

- *[Recreation] ...is by far the biggest use of the forest. Plan components should include a variety of multiple use recreational opportunities.*
- *The Manti-La Sal Forest is not receiving quite the visitation increase as BLM lands, but it could with a possible Monument [designation]. We think the archaeological sites in the Forest are receiving more visitation and we'd love to bring thoughtful, long-term visitor management in this planning process.*
- *[The Forest should] build restrooms halfway up Straight Canyon for rock climbers.*
- *[The Forest should] grade roads [leading to] ...lakes and camping. [The Forest should] improve camping.*

11. Timber

Respondents in the North Zone were overwhelmingly in favor of expanding the Forest's timber program and a loosening of logging restrictions to assist in the removal of deadwood from beetle kill and the Seeley Fire. Moreover, respondents noted their heightened concern over the increased fire risk on the Forest due to the preponderance of deadwood. The Forest received fewer timber-related comments from the South Zone, though some individuals there noted a desire for enhanced protection of the Forest's trees.

Lumber Program Expansion

- *[The Forest needs a] better timbering program.*
- *Logging efforts need to be increased!!*
- *There needs to be small business incentives to assist individuals/small business to be able to work (wood cutting) on the national forest.*
- *The current restriction of cutting 100-ft off the road means I have to carry the wood back manually.*
- *[There have been] no timber sales off Monticello RD in years.*
- *[There are] too many trees per acre resulting in stress from too much competition for water resources. These trees are susceptible to beetle infestation. The Forest needs disturbance (logging or fire) to maintain balance and health.*

Deadfall/Beetle Kill Management

- *Other forests are harvesting beetle trees and eliminating the fire hazard while replanting new trees. This issue needs to be addressed.*
- *[There is] too much dead timber [on the Forest].*
- *[I would like to see] logging of the beetle kill.*

- *I am and have been concerned about the beetle kill problem the Forest suffers from. The Forest is not healthy. There is also a lot of dead fall as a result. This is an ongoing problem for years. [I would] grade [the] FS on Forest management [a] D (out of A-F).*
- *...it would seem like we could do something [with] the beetle kill trees.*
- *The dead trees and wood from the Seeley fire need to be removed and cleaned up; let us cut it up as firewood.*
- *[I have noticed] dead spruce trees - please implement removal strategies.*
- *The forest revision plan should continue to allow the harvesting of firewood. I would recommend that more latitude be given to allow more access to harvest the dead wood. For example current management only allows a 50 yard deviation for vehicles to drive off the road to gather wood. This needs to be extended for gathering of wood only to 150 yards.*

Protection of Forest's Trees

- *[The Forest should] protect the trees - all of them.*

12. Travel Management/Access

Like some of the other topics, respondents were split over the issue of access and travel management. Some communities noted their concern with road closures and sought expanded access. On the other end of the spectrum, some users expressed their pleasure with road closure and proposed the Forest shutter additional roads to protect habitats and Forest ecosystems. Those with such sentiments generally noted their desire to protect the Forest's ecosystems from disturbance by UTVs and other motorized vehicles.

Many of those in favor of expanded access requested the Forest expand its 50" trail width limitation to 60" and beyond, stating that doing so would enhance recreational activities and thus bring an influx of money to local economies. Other users in this group sought expanded access to facilitate the enjoyment of Forest resources specifically by those with disabilities.

Expanded Access

- *The La Sal Mountains offer very few motorized trail experiences. A few 4WD trails are in lower Brumley and Dorry Canyons, however they are hot, rocky and not maintained for a moderate level of difficulty... One option, that should be considered, is to make the SITLA managed trails easily connected to newly developed USFS trails. This would allow riders to have services available should they need them and provide additional community connectors, as part of an overall dirt transportation plan that may mirror a County Resource Management Plan.*
- *The [Forest] plan must include access and cooperation to allow access across forest service lands to state trust land and private property. [The Forest] needs... more and better OHV trails... and should not put up... winter gates.*
- *There needs to be more trail riding opportunities. Closing trails results in more congestion on remaining trails, which results in over-use and negative effects on the Forest in those areas.*

Trail riding is important because it is one of the only ways that people who are older and or not healthy enough to hike can enjoy and experience the Forest. Spreading this opportunity over larger areas will result in less congestion. I believe that there needs to be primitive (roadless, non-motorized) areas where young, healthy people can have their wilderness experience. I enjoy these areas, too. However, the vast majority of people will enjoy public forests by camping and trail riding.

- The Abajo Mountains should be reviewed for increased trail opportunities as they have the ability to provide additional connecting trails. This increased trail connectivity can improve and provide loop opportunities for trails that currently dead end or terminate at a graded or paved road/s. This would increase trail sustainability and lessen impacts upon the existing resource.*

Trail Widening

- The ATV size restrictions really hurts side-by-sides...*
- I suggest that all OHV trails be widened to the maximum width that will still prohibit full size vehicles. The 60" width that has been considered is still too narrow. Perhaps 65" is better?*
- We should learn from previous OHV trail system, within Utah, that have not kept the rider diversity experience alive, by widening trails to 60 plus inches. The OHV community, within Utah, enjoys the diversity and this should be considered a cultural and historical experience, upon the Arapeen network, that cannot [be] enjoyed anywhere else in Utah.*

Restricted Access

- ...excessive motorized use [on the Forest] remains [a] problem. No new roads [on the Forest should be created] at any time. [The Forest should] shut down some roads.*
- Less roads need to be made [on the Forest] and more need to be closed...*
- We... look with concern on some of the proposals to expand motorized trails into the roadless areas such as Candland Mountain and Wagon Road Ridge.*
- Many old roads/ATV trails have been closed - Thank You!*

Road Closures, Access Limits

- [The] closure of roads in 1986 Plan - that we had used – [were made without] ...citizen input. [There are] gates... [during] winter on main roads... [restricting] ...snowmobile [use].*
- Too many roads [on the Forest] are closed or have limited access.*
- We are concerned about maintaining access for equestrian use.*
- I am concerned that the trend of continued loss of access during the travel management process will continue. Any loss of access on the Manti-La Sal should be deemed unacceptable. Options exist to retain access. Volunteer groups are willing to assist to help this area stay open to the public.*
- [There are] too... [many] access limits.*

- *[The Forest should] stop closing 4-wheeler trails.*
- *[I have noticed a] loss or decline of public access roads. Seasonal access roads need to stay seasonal.*
- *There seems to be less access than before.*
- *The possibility that our public land [could] be sold to developers and or closed to the public is very disheartening. [I am concerned about the trend of] closing access roads and trails - disabled people lose the ability to access these amazing areas*
- *[I have noticed a] lack of access to National Forest in winter time.*
- *[The Forest should] keep road access open... [to the] ...public...*
- *I see a lot of roads being closed. I have spent a majority of my life on the mountain, exploring places. I want to take my family to these places, but having a disability (recent) makes it difficult.*

Maintenance Concerns

- *[I have noticed a] decrease in road maintenance.*
- *[An] undesirable is the push to close down rather than fix or maintain roads and trails.*
- *[There is] no maintenance on horse trails except by B.C.H. [I have noticed] illegal roads everywhere, [a lack of] ...law enforcement, [and] ATVs everywhere.*
- *[I have noticed] road deterioration.*

13. Water

Most communities were unanimous in their desire to protect watersheds within the Forest. Some respondents noted concerns over mining and grazing activities negatively affecting water resources. Others also noted concerns over diminishing water resources and snow pack resulting from climate change.

Water Protection

- *[The] H2O discharge from mining high in iron and RDS needs to be considered in the Forest Plan (e.g. Crandall and Deer Creek and perhaps Skyline). The two former mines will discharge indefinitely post-mining.*
- *[I have noticed] back cutting of some streams.*
- *[I have noticed] pedestalling in wet areas.*
- *Riparian systems continue to be degraded.*
- *Many riparian areas are overgrazed.*
- *Watershed protection should be paramount!*

- *[I have noticed] springs that are not protected well and are trampled by cattle.*
- *[I have noticed a] dry up at Duck Lake.*

14. Wilderness and WSR

As was the case with travel management and access, the public was split in two camps regarding Wilderness designations: those in favor of additional designations; and those opposed.

Supporters of expanded Wilderness generally sought to protect wild areas and lessen the impact other uses have on sensitive areas. Those who opposed Wilderness designations did so out of fear of losing access for other uses, particularly grazing, recreation, and access by disabled individuals who rely on motorized vehicles.

Proponents of Additional Wilderness Designations

- *We support the creation of wilderness on those areas suitable for this designation, such as Candland Mountain, but would like the ability to use power tools in maintaining the trails present in these areas.*

Opponents of Additional Wilderness Designations

- *Wilderness areas are discriminatory towards health-limited people and therefore should be limited in size. The right balance of land use opportunities is the best Forest Plan for everyone.*
- *Currently within the Ferron and Sanpete Districts none of the forest service lands qualifies as wilderness. There are several areas that are identified as roadless that are adequately addressed with no need for additional roadless areas outside of current management practices.*

Wild and Scenic Rivers

- *There are no rivers on with the Ferron or Sanpete District that meet the Wild river criteria. There are no rivers that meet with criteria for Scenic classification. I believe there are several rivers such as Huntington Creek that can meet a management criteria as a recreational river.*

15. Wildlife

Attendees noted changing wildlife population levels in virtually every portion of the Forest. Of note, respondents noted a decrease in deer populations and an uptick in elk populations. Some respondents also noted an increase in predator populations, such as bears and mountain lions, which some blamed for the decrease in deer numbers.

Some attendees noted an increase in wildlife stressors resulting from the expansion of recreation activities in wildlife habitats. Respondents also noted their concern with the introduction of exotic wildlife species to the Forest, such as the State of Utah's introduction of mountain goats near the La Sal Mountains, stating that these species were damaging biodiversity in sensitive alpine areas.

Changing Wildlife Population Patterns

- *[I have noticed a] low deer population.*
- *[I have noticed] too much wildlife (elk).*

- *[I have noticed] fewer deer, more elk.*
- *[I have noticed a] decrease in healthy buck and does.*
- *[I have] Seen fewer wildlife... [we] need more male deer... [and the] ...habitat [needs to be] revitalized.*
- *[I have noticed a] loss in quality of deer herd on Elk Ridge.*
- *The quality of the mule deer and elk herds is greatly diminishing.*
- *I have noticed a decrease in deer population in areas with an increase in predator population such as bears, coyotes, and cougars.*
- *[I have noticed] less deer in area of La Sals.*
- *The current plan, even though it is several years old is still very valid. The elk herd on the forest is currently at DWR management goals and is at or near carrying capacities.*

Increased Predators

- *[I have noticed] too many bear.*
- *[I have noticed a] considerable increase in predators.*
- *It seems to me there are more bear than in years past. We saw 5 bear on East Mountain in 1 week, while hunting elk. Not necessarily bad, just an observation.*

Wildlife Stressors

- *[I have noticed the] placement of salt blocks by hunters in moist meadows, wetlands, springs to bait deer/elk*
- *We have seen pressure from motorized recreation push the sensitive species deeper into the roadless areas.*
- *[I have noticed] increased ATV [use] especially use in harassing wildlife - bear, elk. The "sport" of treeing bears with use of dogs is inhumane, cruel and stressful to the bears.*

Introduction of Exotic Wildlife Harming Forest

- *[I have also noticed an] undesirable introduction of mountain goats.*
- *[The Forest should] remove mountain goats from RNA.*
- *Introduction of mountain goats not appropriate in La Sals - they are in research natural area, impacting endemic and threatened plants.*
- *Mountain goats are not native and shouldn't be in the NF.*

Hunting

- *[I would like to see] no hunting or trapping of any wildlife species.*
- *[There has been] an increase of people interfering with persons trying to hunt legally.*

In sum, while the public was divided on topics—including climate change, fire, grazing, Wilderness, among others—there were a few notable areas of concurrence, such as a general appreciation for the social and economic importance of the Forest. Accordingly, while there are many disagreements on how the Forest should be managed, there was a general sentiment toward conserving the Forest for use and enjoyment by current and future generations.

The next sections of this report highlights and answers the many questions the Forest received at the July/August open houses.

Questions and Answers

This section provides answers to questions the Forest received about Plan Revision during the open houses. Questions were collected on a *Q&A Form*, which prompted respondents to write down any outstanding questions they had following the open houses. Through the Form, the Forest promised the public that it would answer collected questions in a public forum—such as this report, which will be posted on the Forest’s Planning webpage:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd509713>.

It is worth highlighting that many respondents used the Q&A Form to provide comments instead of ask questions. The Forest collected these comments and analyzed them with those collected on the *Public Survey* (see the previous section for an analysis of these comments).

In addition to receiving extraneous comments on the Q&A Form, the Forest received many questions that fell outside the scope of Plan Revision, such as questions about project or site-specific issues. These questions are listed in a sub-section below, but were not answered by the Plan Revision Team. Instead, the Plan Revision Team forwarded these questions to the Manti-La Sal National Forest district offices for a response. Additionally, the Forest received many of the same or similar questions. In such cases, the Forest chose to answer only one of these same or similar questions, since the answer to both questions would have been the same.

Similar to the Survey and Comment data, the Forest categorized each of the questions in one of the 15 topical categories outlined in the second section of this report. The reasoning behind this was to highlight which topical areas were garnering the most interest, as well as those areas where the public sought additional clarity. Additionally, it provided a cogent framework for answering the questions.

Biodiversity

- *Q: Is there a plan to address the spread of larkspur? How about control of invasive species?*

- A: The Forest has a program in place to monitor and treat noxious weeds. Invasive species such as larkspur will be addressed in Plan Revision during the Assessment Phase, particularly under Assessment Topic number 3, which looks at system drivers, including dominant ecological processes, disturbance regimes, and stressors, such as natural succession, wildland fire, invasive species, and climate change; and the ability of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems on the plan area to adapt to change. However, since the Forest is in the first year of the four year Revision effort, new Forest plan components have not been developed yet.

Climate Change

- *Q: Why is climate change a topic when there is not agreement even with scientists on the cause? We can manage for carbon sequestration and drought but to manage for a nebulous concept is absurd.*
- A: While there may be disagreement in the scientific community about the cause of climate change, there is generally an agreement that it is occurring, based on a large body of climate data. In recognizing these data and the effects of rising temperatures on Forest ecosystems, the Forest Service included climate change as a topic in Plan Revision with the hopes of monitoring and reducing its effects through appropriate management, whatever the cause. Indeed, while the term may be nebulous, and politically charged, the effects of climate change, such as rising temperatures and reduced snow packs, are well documented and, in some cases, can be managed. For more information on climate change, its effects, and the ways in which the Forest manages for it, please visit the Forest Service's climate resource center webpage at: www.fs.fed.us/climatechange.

Communication

- *Q: Is there a process to engage towns, cattle associations, and water users (basically those who have special use permits or permittees) to make sure their interests are included in the plan?*
- A: The process through which towns, cattle associations, and water users can ensure their interests are included in the Plan are the same as those available to the broader public. These entities can ensure their voices are heard by attending public open houses, and workshops; providing data, comments, and other information related to Plan Revision to the Forest Plan Revision Team; and through the Forest's various online resources, such as email and the Manti-La Sal Forest Plan Revision StoryMap (<http://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=b351ac860564ba8a9bee7df4a4c7774>) and Planning webpages (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd509713>). Overall, the Forest seeks broad public participation in Plan Revision, while not giving preferential treatment to any one stakeholder.
- *Q: Is there an inventory of the Forest resources?*

- A: The Forest maintains inventories of data and information related to each resource area. There is no one specific inventory, instead there are various databases by resource area.
- *Q: We would like to know specifically what wording is going to change in the current plan.*
- A: Having just started the four-year Plan Revision process, the Forest has not completed the analysis required to be able to determine what wording from the current plan will change. However, as we progress through the planning stage, the public will have opportunities to provide inputs to the plan and comment on proposed language prior to the finalization of the Plan.
- *Q: How can I, as a citizen, have input in the planning process?*
- A: The Forest has designed a robust public participation process to ensure the every individual has ample opportunities to provide input into the planning process. The Forest will hold open houses during each phase of Plan Revision—Assessment, Plan Development/NEPA, and Implementation/Monitoring—where the public will be invited to provide input face-to-face to Forest Service personnel. Additionally, the Forest has designed online tools for the public to participate and provide input, including online Surveys (https://www.Surveymonkey.com/r/MLSNF_July-August_Open_House_Survey), Question and Answer Forms (https://www.Surveymonkey.com/r/MLSNF_July-August_QA_Form), and forthcoming interactive mapping tools on its StoryMap webpage (<http://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=b351acf860564ba8a9bee7df4a4c7774>). In addition, the Forest will be accepting input through email (mlnfpplanrevision@fs.fed.us), postal mail (599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501), fax (435-637-4940), phone (435-636-3508) and social media (Twitter (@ml_nf) and Facebook). In sum, the Forest will accept *any* and all input at *any* time during the planning process. For more information about public participation opportunities and the Forest's philosophy on public participation, please see the Forest's Public Participation Strategy (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B05zlfuaVok-bEFwaEYxYVp5bVE/view>).
- *Q: We are getting to the age that our outside activities are restricted. However, our interest in the management of the Manti-La Sal National Forest is very important to us. How is the Forest Service or the US Department of Agriculture planning to conduct the revision planning in such a transparent manner that none of the stakeholders are favored over any others?*
- *Related Q: How will the Manti-La Sal NF make all communications with the forest open and transparent to the public during the forest plan revision process so that no entities (e.g., cooperating agencies) are afforded privileged, exclusive access to the Interdisciplinary Team and/or the Manti-La Sal NF staff?*
- A: The Forest has designed its public participation opportunities to bolster transparency and ensure all stakeholders have an equal voice in Plan Revision. To this end, all Plan Revision meetings will be open to the public, including the Forest's meetings with its Cooperating Agencies (identified State, local, Tribal, and Federal government entities with legal authority or expertise in land management planning). Additionally, notes from these and all public

meetings will be publicly posted to the Forest's Planning webpage (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd509713>) as early as possible or will be available upon request. Moreover, all planning data will go into the Forest's official planning record, which is considered publicly available information.

- *Q: We value our public lands as a huge benefit of citizenship. Is there a USF[S] or USDA high official willing to put his [or her] reputation on the line that the planning will be conducted in such a manner? Restricting the exchange of planning information to state first, then lower government officials without the input of citizens and their organizations will cause a high level of distrust. Most of those state officials do not have a common interest with the majority of the folks in Moab.*
- A: The Forest Supervisor of the Manti-La Sal National Forest's approval of the Forest's *Public Participation Strategy* (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B05zlfuaVok-bEFwaEYxYVp5bVE/view>), which outlines the ways in which the Forest will ensure robust and transparent public participation, exhibits the Forest's—and a high-ranking officials'—commitment to public participation and transparency in the planning process. As is highlighted in the Forest's *Public Participation Strategy*, the Forest is not restricting the exchange of planning information to the state and then lower level government officials, while excluding the public. All stakeholders will have access to the same information at the same time; and all stakeholders' comments, questions, concerns, and inputs will be accepted at *any* point in the planning process and receive *equal* treatment.
- *Q: Who litigated the last forest plan, causing it to be shelved?*
- A: The Draft Forest Plan created between 2004 and 2007 for the Manti-La Sal National Forest was not litigated, but the Planning Rule under which the Forest Plan was developed, was. Previous attempts to update the Planning Rule in 2000, 2005 and 2008 drew lawsuits from the Center for Biological Diversity and other environmental groups, leaving the 1982 Rule in place until the 2012 Rule was created, which is what we are operating under for this current Plan Revision.
- *Q: How can the public contribute to the assessment process?*
- A: The public can contribute to the Assessment process in a number of ways. In September 2016, the Forest will be hosting a series of eight public open houses in communities near the Forest, the purpose of which is to inform the public about the Assessment process and collect data from the public to use in the Assessment report, including information about potential Wilderness areas and the Forest's initial list of possible Species of Conservation Concern (SCC). Open house dates, times, and locations are located on the Forest's Planning webpage: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd509713>. In addition to the Assessment open houses, the Forest will be accepting input from the public through email (mlnfpplanrevision@fs.fed.us); online Surveys (https://www.Surveymonkey.com/r/MLSNF_July-August_Open_House_Survey) and questionnaires (https://www.Surveymonkey.com/r/MLSNF_July-August_QA_Form); the Plan Revision StoryMap website

(<http://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=b351acf860564ba8a9bee7df4a4c7774>); via phone (435-636-3508), fax (435-637-4940), and postal mail (599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah, 84501 – Attention: Plan Revision); and on the Forest’s social media pages (Twitter (https://twitter.com/ml_nf) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/US-Forest-Service-Manti-La-Sal-National-Forest-879461288799152/>)). The Forest is specifically looking for data about current Forest conditions across 15 topical areas. A list of these topics can be found at this site: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B05zlfuaVok-RXlseFB3blhXOFU/view>.

- *Q: Why does the Forest accept anonymous comments?*
- The privacy interest of individuals are protected under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), which allows government agencies to withhold personal data at the request of individuals when it would amount to an invasion of privacy that is to some degree “unwarranted” (see 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6) and *Department of Defense v. F.L.R.A.* 114 S. Ct. 1006, 1012 (1994)). To comply with this FOIA exemption and protect the privacy of our publics, the Forest allows individuals to submit comments anonymously. It is important to note that anonymous comments are not allowed during the objection process. In order to be eligible to object, substantive formal comments must have been submitted during the associated NEPA comment periods and the objector’s name must be provided with the objection (36 CFR 219.50).
- *Q: Will the Forest Service agree to sit down soon with interested parties in order to solicit recommendations to (1) increase outreach to interested parties regionally and nationally and not just locally; (2) increase web page usability (e.g., the requirement to download, print out, fill in, and scan the Question and Answer Form and Public Survey Form is unreasonable in an age of such easily-used Survey methods such as Survey Monkey, and input forms that can be filled out online); and (3) any other outreach/communications suggestions?*
- A: The Forest welcomes suggestions on how to better solicit input and recommendations from interested parties and refine the usability of its webpages and forms. Suggestions can be sent via email to the Plan Revision Team (mlnfp.planrevision@fs.fed.us) or mail (599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501). Suggestions can also be given in-person at any of the Forest’s Plan Revision open houses (see <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B05zlfuaVok-bVptcEoxM18yYjQ/view>) or via phone by calling Blake Bassett, the Manti-La Sal Forest Plan Revision Partnership Coordinator, at 435-636-3508. As a note, the Forest is using electronic methods for its Surveys (see https://www.Surveymonkey.com/r/MLSNF_July-August_Open_House_Survey and https://www.Surveymonkey.com/r/MLSNF_July-August_QA_Form). However, because not all of our publics own or are able to use computers, the Forest has chosen to also provide paper forms (see http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd512116.pdf and http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd512117.pdf) to ensure broad public participation and compliance with the American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA) (see the United States Department of Justice’s ADA webpage for more information <https://www.ada.gov/>). The Forest believes targeting all of its stakeholders, not just those with informational technology capabilities and knowhow, is important.

- *Q: Is the Manti-La Sal NF actively reviewing various successful outreach and public participation methods being used on other national forests that are further along in their forest plan revision?*
- A: The Forest Plan Revision Team has been reviewing successful outreach and public participation methods since spring of 2016. Prior to the initiation of Plan Revision, members of the Plan Team travelled to other forests undergoing plan revision to document lessons learned and help shape the Manti-La Sal National Forest's outreach and public participation methods for its Plan Revision. In addition, the Manti-La Sal National Forest planning team conducts bi-weekly communication calls with the Forest Service's Intermountain Regional Office to further refine and develop communication methods for Plan Revision. The Forest is also working with industry leaders and technology companies—including Esri and a host of consultants—and social scientists to refine its outreach and public participation methods. Some outputs of these efforts are the Manti-La Sal Plan Revision StoryMap page (<http://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=b351acf860564ba8a9bee7df4a4c7774>) and a forthcoming 'Talking Points' interactive mapping tool that will enable users to provide geospatial data in real-time online. The Manti-La Sal National Forest will be among the first forests to use these tools, placing it on the technological cutting edge in public outreach methods. However, the Forest is always open to recommendations on how it can improve its public outreach.
- *Q: How can the Forest Service let the public know that data, photos, and observations are welcome through September 2016 for the Assessment Phase of the forest plan revision? This is not clear in the Public Survey.*
- A: The July/August Public Survey is just the first of many that the Forest will use to gather data during the process and is not intended to establish the Forest's public participation timeline for the Assessment Phase. The Forest's Public Participation Strategy does so, however, and can be viewed at this link: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B05zlfuaVok-bEFwaEYxYVp5bVE/view>. Moreover, a second set of Assessment-specific surveys will be disseminated at the Forest's upcoming Assessment open houses, which will be held in eight communities near the Forest in the month of September 2016. That being said, the Forest appreciates the recommendation of adding clarifying language on its Surveys, and will do so in the future.

Fire

- *Q: Is there a plan for more prescribed burns to add greater variety to the areas of solid pine?*
- A: Prescribed burns are laid out at the site-specific project scale. However, fire/fuels is one of the key considerations for Plan Revision. As such, there will likely be new Forest plan components related to managing fuels buildup in the Forest.

- *Q: How will the new plan deal with beetle kill and the extremely high fiber and forage loads (fuel) on the Manti (Skyline especially)?*
- A: The new Plan will set desired conditions for areas of the Forest, including those with beetle kill and excessive fuel loads. These desired conditions will guide management of these areas—through logging, prescribed burns, or other management methods.
- *Q: How do you get more control of forest fires? (do not let it burn - it causes flooding)*
- A: Like all other resource areas, the Plan Revision will set the strategic guidance for the management of forest fires with high consideration of values at risk. In many cases fires are necessary to reduce fuel loads—to prevent catastrophic fires—and are critical to the survival of many species, particularly pine trees with serotonous cones (such as ponderosa pines) which require high temperatures from fire to proliferate.
- *Q: Will there be any changes to the firefighting process on the forest?*
- A: New Forest plan components will be developed related to wildfire response and using prescribed fire to manage fuel loads.

Grazing/Range

- *Q: Is there a plan to base grazing on field studies?*
- A: All assessments on grazing during Plan Revision will be based on the use of the Best Available Scientific Information (BASIS), which includes field data. Luckily, the Forest has access to extensive grazing field study databases, dating back to the State of Utah's request for the federal government to establish a Forest Reserve, today known as the Manti-La Sal National Forest, in response to overgrazing in the early 1900s.
- *Q: Why isn't grazing listed in your handout of Forest Plan Revision topics?*
- A: Like other uses, such as timber, grazing is considered under several topical areas, including but not limited to topics number 6 (Social, cultural, and economic conditions) and number 8 (Multiple uses and their contributions to local, regional, and national economies). Moreover, since grazing has many considerations—including its economic and environmental impacts—it would have been an oversimplification to delink it from its broader context by making it its own topic.
- *Q: What is your plan for wildlife versus cattle and cattle ranchers?*
- A: Having just started the four-year Plan Revision process, the Forest has not completed the analysis required to be able to determine what the final plan will look like. However, as we progress through the planning stage and develop plan components, the public will have opportunities to provide inputs to the plan and comment on proposed language prior to the finalization of the Plan. Accordingly, the public will help shape the plan, though it is important to note that the Forest manages wildlife habitats, while the State of Utah manages wildlife populations.

- *Q: Any plan to limit cattle numbers and areas? Too many in and around Warner Lake. Huge difference in land areas where they graze and don't graze.*
- A: Having just started the four-year Plan Revision process, the Forest has not completed the requisite analysis to determine the desired conditions for natural resources. That determination, as well as the other plan components, will be made once the Forest has collected and analyzed all available data on range conditions—including information from the public—and determined desired conditions. Determining the number of livestock permitted to graze on the Forest is outside the scope of Plan Revision. The new Forest Plan will set desired conditions for ecosystems, with which permitted activities will need to be consistent. Permits are managed on a project-specific basis.
- *Q: There is significant signs of global warming in La Sals. Cows are grazing all over the mountains. Since forage is not as profuse as when the grazing plans were first introduced, is there a plan to reduce the number of cows grazing?*
- A: Having just started the four-year Plan Revision process, the Forest has not completed the analysis required to be able to determine the appropriate number of livestock for the Forest. That determination, as well as the other plan components, will be made once the Forest has collected and analyzed all available data on range conditions—including information from the public—and determined desired conditions. Determining the number of livestock permitted to graze on the Forest is outside the scope of Plan Revision. The new Forest Plan will set desired conditions for ecosystems, with which permitted activities will need to be consistent. Permits are managed on a project-specific basis.

Management

- *Q: I would like to know what things the Forest Service feels like it does for our forests. How does the Forest Service justify its existence?*
- A: The Forest service is responsible for managing lands in the National Forest System (NFS) in a manner that allows for multiple uses—including recreation, timber, minerals, oil/gas, grazing, among others—while conserving natural lands and resources in perpetuity for the enjoyment of current and future generations. The best way to highlight the work of the Forest Service is to go back in history, to before the Forest Service was formed.

In the late 1880's, overgrazing and clear cutting of U.S. forests had severely degraded the land, causing significant landslides, flooding, and dust bowls. Moreover, over-logging led to a timber shortage in the country, which was particularly concerning in light of timber's prominent role at that time as a critical resource in national security, since ships, freight, and other military resources were built of wood.

At the turn of the 20th Century, the State of Utah, in particular, was concerned about the conditions of its forests and requested a Forest Reserve—known today as National Forests—be

created in what today covers the Sanpete, Price, and Ferron Ranger Districts of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. In response to the request, future Associate Chief of the Forest Service Albert Potter travelled from Washington, D.C., to Utah to Survey areas near Sanpete, Ferron, and Huntington. Potter confirmed the dismal state of the forest, through photographs and field studies that the Forest maintains today. Much of the Forest's vegetation had been picked clean, and overuse of timber resources had left large swaths of forest bare. As a result of Potter's report, the federal government agreed to establish a Forest Reserve in the area.

Based on a comparison of Potter's field photos and current photographs of the same locations, the Forest's conditions have markedly improved since the Forest Reserve was established in the early 1900s. In areas where Potter's photos showed dirt fields there now stands diverse vegetation. This has led to an uptick in economic productivity on the land, from which many Utah communities near the Forest have benefited, and the sustainment of breathtaking scenery enjoyed by thousands of Americans every year.

So, in sum, this is what the Forest Service does for the Forest—improves the land and manages it in ways that allow for its use by current and future generations.

- *Q: Will the MOU with the Utah Association of Counties weaken USFS authority to manage federal lands? Will the MOU be available to the public?*
- A: The MOU between the Forest Service and the Utah Association of Counties (UAC) is an agreement between the Forest Service's Intermountain Regional Office and the UAC. Accordingly, the Manti-La Sal National Forest cannot speculate on its substance, though federal regulations stipulate that the Forest Service retains full authority over decision-making on Forest Service lands, an authority that cannot be delegated (see 40 CFR 1501.6) by the Regional Forester or the Forest Supervisor.
- *Q: What happens to Forest Service control of the Forest if it is included in a National Monument?*
- A: The Forest has no insight into the potential declaration of a Bear's Ears National Monument. As such, the Forest cannot speculate as to how such a designation would affect control of the Manti-La Sal National Forest. In past instances where the Federal government has declared a national monument in an area where several agencies control land—such as is the case with the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service's split ownership of the Bear's Ears area—the Federal government has usually shared management, with one agency taking the lead. In such instances, each agency is jointly responsible for the management of national monument lands, though ultimate decision-making authority rests with the lead agency. A management plan would be required to address how the new monument would be managed.

Planning Process

- *Q: The planning guide refers to special areas but doesn't define them. Where and what are they?*
- A: From the USFS Special Areas Webpage: “Congress has designated several areas unique for their special characteristics and the opportunities they offer. In addition to congressionally designated wilderness and wild and scenic rivers, the[se]... [special areas] include... National Historic Landmarks (NHL), National Volcanic Monuments (NVM), National Historic Scenic Areas (NHS), National Recreation Areas (NRA), Scenic Recreation Areas (SRA), National Scenic Areas (NSA), National Preserves (NP), and National Monuments (NM).”¹ Visit the USFS Special Areas webpage for additional details:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/cda/special-areas.shtml>.
- *Q: In what ways will the new forest plan be easier to revise/adapt?*
- A: The new Forest Plan will be easier to revise/adapt because of the 2012 Planning Rule’s emphasis on *adaptive management*. Per the Forest Service Handbook, “Adaptive management is the general framework encompassing the three phases of planning: assessment, plan development, and monitoring (36 CFR 219.5). This framework supports decision-making that meets management objectives while simultaneously accruing information to improve future management by adjusting the plan or plan implementation. Adaptive management is a structured, cyclical process for planning and decision-making in the face of uncertainty and changing conditions with feedback from monitoring, which includes using the planning process to actively test assumptions, track relevant conditions over time, and measure management effectiveness.”²

The previous planning rule allowed for less adaptation than the 2012 Rule. Under the old planning rule, an amendment was required to make changes to the Plan in the event it was not meeting its desired conditions. The new plan, however, allows in some cases for adjustments without going through the laborious amendment process. This will enable the Forest to adjust the plan more quickly in response to changes on the ground.

- *Q: What does the revision process look like?*
- A: The Forest Plan Revision process is expected to last 4 years, starting in 2016 and lasting until plan implementation in 2019. Beginning with pre-planning, the planning process includes the following phases: Assessment; Plan Development; Draft EIS & Forest EIS; and Plan Implementation and Monitoring. Each phase has accompanying tasks and opportunities for public participation.

¹ "Other Congressionally Designated Areas." USDA Forest Service. March 28, 2016. Accessed August 29, 2016. doi:<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/cda/special-areas.shtml>.

² "FSH 1909.12 – LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING HANDBOOK." ZERO CODE, January 30, 2015, 3. Accessed August 29, 2016. <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/planningrule/home/?cid=stelprd3828310>.

During the process, the Forest will provide opportunities for the public to participate in the Assessment Phase and development of the Draft Forest Plan; to comment on the Draft Plan and the disclosure of its Environmental Impact Statements; to participate during the Objection Process; and to review Monitoring Results.

- *Will the plan revision include an appropriate range of alternatives?*
- A: The NEPA process will be followed per 36 CFR 219 and 36 CFR 220.
- *How will the final version of the plan link to budgeting process?*
- A: The budget is not directly linked to the Forest Plan, however the Forest is budgeted to conduct site specific projects on the ground that move the Forest towards the desired conditions in the Plan.
- *Q: Will the 2014 Forest Service document, 'Initial Review of Livestock Grazing Effects on Select Ecosystem of the Dixie, Fishlake and Manti-La Sal National Forests' be accepted by the Forest Service as valid information during the Assessment Phase of the forest plan revision? If not, why not?*
- A: The Forest will accept any and all feedback during the Plan Revision process, including requests to use the analysis at issue. However, the Manti-La Sal National Forest falls under the direction of its regional office—the Intermountain Region Office—located in Ogden, Utah. Thus any agreement signed by the Regional Office supersedes the authority of the Manti-La Sal National Forest, and so the Forest will have to coordinate the use of the analysis with the Intermountain Regional Office to ensure its use will not violate any outstanding agreements between the Regional Forester and other parties.

Recreation

- *Q: Will there be any revision to annual recreation residence permits? They have increased approximately 450-500% in the past four years. This makes it difficult to justify our continuing to maintain use when weather generally allows access only during 4-5 months from May to Oct. This brings up a question of being able to purchase outright the one acre plot that our permit allows us.*
- *Related Q: How will the plan revision affect recreation residence permits?*
- A: Recreation residence permit fees will not be considered during Plan Revision. Fees are a site-specific issue and thus managed by the Forest's district offices. However, like other permittees, such as livestock and timber, recreation permits and the use of the permitted land will be analyzed during the Forest Plan Revision against desired conditions for the land, which will be established during the planning process. In most instances, it is likely areas currently permitted for recreation residences will meet the desired condition. However, in the event a

recreation residence is incompatible with a desired condition on the Forest, the Forest may choose not to renew such a permit once it expires.

- *Q: What areas of the Forest does [the] management plan to eliminate or restrict dispersed camping?*
- *Related Q: How is the Forest Plan Revision going to impact campsites? Are you going to be closing campsites?*
- A: Having just started the four-year Plan Revision process, the Forest has not completed the analysis required to be able to determine what areas are appropriate for dispersed camping. That determination, as well as the other plan components, may be made once the Forest has collected and analyzed all available data and determined desired conditions.
- *Q: How are decisions going to be made about trail designation/use/enforcement for hiking, biking, x-country ski/snowshoe, snowmobile, etc.?*
- A: Using all available data during the Assessment and Plan Development Phases of the planning process, the Forest will identify desired conditions for the Forest lands. From the desired conditions, the Forest will identify areas that are suitable for various uses, including recreation, grazing, timber, and other uses. Public input regarding land suitability will be collected throughout the process and will be considered by the Plan Revision Team and the Forest Supervisor, who has approval authority for the Plan.

Timber

- *Q: Is there an inventory of Forest stands?*
- A: The Forest maintains a database of Forest stands and regularly keeps it updated as new information is collected.
- *Q: Is there an allowable cut?*
- A: The amount of timber removed from the Forest is driven by market demands. The amount of timber cut varies from year to year.
- *Q: Are we recovering from the pine beetles?*
- A: Pine beetle epidemics come and go depending on Forest conditions and climate fluctuations. The Assessment Report will provide more information on the status of pine beetles specific to the Manti-La Sal National Forest.
- *Q: Why isn't timber in the Assessment Topics?*
- A: Like other uses, such as grazing, timber is considered under several topical areas in the 2012 Planning Rule, including but not limited to topics number 6 (Social, cultural, and economic conditions) and number 8 (Multiple uses and their contributions to local, regional, and national economies). Moreover, since timber has many considerations—including its

economic and environmental impacts—it would have been an oversimplification to delink it from its broader context by making it its own topic.

Travel Mgmt./Access

- *Q: Is there a valid inventory of unroaded areas?*
- A: There is a defined set of inventoried roadless areas (IRAs), which the Forest manages accordingly.
- *Q: What is the plan going forward as to addressing the needs of disabled individuals' access to public lands? Most rely on ATV or side-by-side to access these lands. My son has a disability but enjoys the outdoors - hunting, fishing, camping, photography, etc. and it is sad to see the Forest Service restricting access to these individuals.*
- *Related Q: What is your plan for ATV-UTV use on the forest?*
- A: We are in the beginning stages of the four-year Plan Revision process. Accordingly, we have not solidified any access plans. However, during the Assessment, the Forest will be collecting all available data, from which we will conduct an Inventory—including all types of roads—and establish desirable conditions for Forest lands. This will help the Forest identify areas that are suitable for different uses, such as motorized recreation. During this process, the public will be able to comment on the areas they use for consideration in the Plan. It is important to note, however, that the Forest Plan Revision will not be opening or closing any additional roads, since such decisions are made on a site and project-specific basis and require their own sets of environmental analyses. However, the Forest Plan Revision will provide guidance for such plans, which may influence future access and travel management decisions.
- *Q: Are there any plans to widen ATV trails over 50"?*
- A: We are in the beginning stages of the four-year Plan Revision process. Accordingly, we have not solidified any trail plans. Additionally, the 50" ATV trails restriction is not a policy that is determined by the Manti-La Sal National Forest and thus we are unable to decide whether to extend it. Instead, the width restrictions are addressed in the 2005 Travel Management Rule at 36 CFR 212.
- *Q: Which areas does Forest Service plan to designate as roadless areas?*
- *Related Q: Which roads does Forest Service plan to close in order to justify designation as roadless area?*
- A: Designation of roadless areas is outside the scope of Forest Plan Revision.
- *Q: How is the Forest Service going to be able to conduct this planning effort without addressing transportation?*

- A: Transportation decisions are made on a site and project-specific basis and require their own sets of environmental analyses. However, the Forest Plan Revision will provide guidance for such plans, which may influence access and travel management decisions. In this way, transportation and travel management will be indirectly addressed during Plan Revision.
- *Q: The La Sals and Abajos are small, beautiful mountains. Are there plans to limit all land usage to keep them beautiful (esp. high impact uses)?*
- A: We are in the beginning stages of the four-year Plan Revision process. Accordingly, we have not solidified any plan components. However, during the Assessment, the Forest will be collecting all available data, from which we will establish desired conditions for Forest lands, to include the La Sal and Abajo Mountains. This will help the Forest identify areas that are suitable for different uses, as well as areas that may require additional protection. During this process, the public will be able to comment on the areas they would like to see set aside for specific uses, or areas they would like to see protected as potential Wilderness under the Wilderness Protection Act. It is important to note that Wilderness will not be designated as part of Plan Revision. An analysis will be conducted to determine whether any areas will be recommended as Wilderness. However, the Forest Service will not act on those recommendations, which are left up to Congress to decide at any time in the future. Public input on Wilderness recommendations will be collected at multiple points, including at the September 2016 open houses, which will be held in eight communities near the Forest (see the Forest's Planning page for more details on the September 2016 open houses: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd509713>).

Water

- *Q: Is there a plan to address sediment from slides entering major streams?*
- A: We are in the beginning stages of the four-year Plan Revision process. Accordingly, we have not solidified any plan components. However, during the Assessment, the Forest will be collecting all available data, including information about streams, rivers, and other water resources. From these data, the Forest will identify desired conditions for these resources, which will guide the ways in which the Forest will manage them, to include addressing any issues regarding to excessive sediment entering major streams. The Forest is interested in any data the public has regarding sediment entering major streams. Such information can be emailed to the Plan Revision Team at mlnplanrevision@fs.fed.us or sent via postal mail to 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501.
- *Q: Is there a plan to reestablish and maintain reservoirs to better utilize water for our communities?*
- A: We are in the beginning stages of the four-year Plan Revision process. Accordingly, we have not solidified any plan components. However, during the Assessment, the Forest will be collecting all available data, including information about streams, rivers, and other water resources, from which we will create an Assessment report that will help the Forest establish

desired conditions for water resources. It is important to note, however, that the Forest Plan Revision will not be reestablishing reservoirs, as such projects are made on a site basis and require their own sets of environmental analyses. However, the Forest Plan Revision will provide guidance for such plans and thus may indirectly impact water use on the Forest.

- *Q: What is the plan for lakes, rivers, streams, any water ways?*
- A: We are in the beginning stages of the four-year Plan Revision process. Accordingly, we have not solidified any plan components. However, during the Assessment, the Forest will be collecting all available data, including information about streams, rivers, and other water resources, from which we will create an Assessment report that will help the Forest establish desired conditions for water resources. It is important to note, however, that the Forest Plan Revision will include any site-specific plans for waterways, as such projects are made on a site basis and require their own sets of environmental analyses. However, the Forest Plan Revision will provide guidance for such plans and thus may indirectly impact them.

Wilderness

- *Q: Which motorized trails does Forest Service plan to change to non-motorized in order to qualify the area as potential Wilderness?*
- A: We are in the beginning stages of the four-year Plan Revision process. Accordingly, we have not solidified any plan components. However, during the Assessment, the Forest will be collecting all available data, from which we will establish desired conditions for Forest lands, to include whether any areas should be recommended as potential Wilderness. This will help the Forest identify areas that are suitable for different uses, as well as areas that may require additional protection. During this process, the public will be able to comment on the areas they would like to see protected as potential Wilderness under the Wilderness Protection Act. It is important to note that Wilderness will not be designated as part of Plan Revision. An analysis will be conducted to determine whether any areas will be recommended as Wilderness. However, the Forest Service will not act on those recommendations, which are left up to Congress to decide at any time in the future. Public input on Wilderness recommendations will be collected at multiple points, including at the September 2016 open houses, which will be held in eight communities near the Forest (see the Forest's Planning page for more details on the September 2016 open houses:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd509713>).

WSR

- *Q: What is the legal definition of “river” in the Wild and Scenic River Act?*
- A: From the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System Webpage:

“To qualify, a river or river segment must be in a free-flowing condition and must be deemed to have one or more “outstandingly remarkable” scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values.

Free-flowing is defined in the Act as “existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway.”³

“Rivers are classified as wild, scenic, or recreational:

Wild River Areas – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic River Areas – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational River Areas – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.”⁴

Questions Outside the Scope of Plan Revision

As previously mentioned, the Forest received many site-specific questions that fell outside the purview of Plan Revision. The Forest Plan Revision Team did not answer these questions and instead forwarded them to the Forest’s district offices for action. However, while not answering these questions in this report, the Forest chose to document these questions in this report to bolster transparency and facilitate a greater public understanding of the issues of public concern. Moreover, the Forest wanted those who did not receive responses to know that the Forest had processed their questions and is taking steps to get answers through its district offices.

Grazing/Range

- *Q: Long-term chronic exposure to tebuthirone is unknown. To use it on watershed in the absence of that knowledge is unscientific and unethical. How are you planning to use it?*
- *Q: Is there a plan for permittees (cattle) to use live aspen and other forest materials to build and maintain fences?*

³ Haubert, John. "An Introduction to Wild and Scenic Rivers." November 1998, 1-3.
doi:<https://www.rivers.gov/documents/wsr-primer.pdf>.

⁴ "ABOUT THE WSR ACT." National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Accessed August 26, 2016.
doi:<https://www.rivers.gov/wsr-act.php>.

- *Q: Do you have any plans for thistle control in Huntington Canyon and Candland Mountain?*
- *Q: I heard county commissioners were invited to grazing planning sessions which are closed to the public. This seems to be a conflict of interest. My question is, are the plans for revising the grazing allotments going to be open to the public?*

Recreation

- *Q: In our area, one of the main uses of Forest Land is camping and ATV/UTV use. Camping areas use to have water (culinary) to replenish water use. Why isn't there more water stations that campers can use so that long distances do not have to be traveled to get water?*
- *Q: How are safety concerns addressed with heavy biking, commercial use increasing, and some hike/bike sections overlapping? Have personally had encounters where I've felt endangered (and treated rudely) by fast downhill bikers. I'm a mt. biker myself and my son and friends are avid downhill riders - but think better delineation and marking of trails will reduce conflict and increase safety.*
- *Q: In our area, one of the main uses of Forest Land is camping and ATV/UTV use. Camping areas use to have water (culinary) to replenish water use. Why isn't there more water stations that campers can use so that long distances do not have to be traveled to get water?*
- *Q: What services the Forest Service will or continue to provide for cabin owners with Forest Service permits - such as road access, problem tree removal, protection from summer sheep grazing (through spring area)?*

Timber

- *What dictates the destruction of the cedar trees?*
- *Can the beetle kill problem trees be used?*
- *What are the Forest Service's thoughts on clearing deadfall from the forest (i.e. beetle kill)?*
- *How does the Forest Service intend to make citizen use and access to firewood easier?*

Travel Management/Access

- *Q: What are the Forest Service's plans/desires for Knuck Woodward Road?*
- *Q: Why do we not have signage on Forest Service roads? We used to have signs on roads telling you what road this or that was. Not now. Why?*
- *Q: Where is the official valid inventory of unroaded areas put together during the Clinton administration? There was not much public input, if any.*

Q: Is there a plan to improve roads in 12-Mile Canyon?

Wildlife:

- Q: I read a report of high copper content in some local salt licks being used, is there any substance to this report? This could contribute to low deer numbers.*
- Q: Could we stop the bear treeing ""sport"" with use of dog packs?*

Q: Are deer and elk decreasing? Are pika decreasing due to introduction of mt. goats?

Conclusion

The July/August meetings were the first of several scheduled during the four-year Plan Revision process. Attendance at the open houses eclipsed historic trends for Manti-La Sal National Forest public meetings. However, anecdotal evidence suggests youth, minorities, and tribal engagement at the meetings could be improved. Accordingly, the Forest must update its *Public Participation Strategy* and hone its outreach methods to expand public participation even further. The data collected at the July/August meetings will be used to such ends in preparation for the Assessment open houses, which will occur in September 2016 in eight communities near the Forest.

The uses of the Manti-La Sal National Forest, and the visions of its future, are as diverse as the Forest's geographic landscapes and user demographics. This presents a challenge for Plan Revision in that user groups are oftentimes polarized along ideological lines, making compromise difficult in some cases. However, such diversity of thought also presents an enormous opportunity for the Forest and its users to create a dynamic Forest Plan that provides for multiple uses and meets the needs of *all* users. Indeed, while not all users' visions for the future of the Forest coincide, virtually all users agree that the Forest must be managed in a way to ensure its persistence in perpetuity, for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Manti-La Sal National Forest would like to thank everyone who participated in the July/August open houses and those who submitted comments and questions. Your continued participation in the Forest Plan Revision process is very important to us.

Appendix

All of the handouts below can be found at the Forest's Planning Webpage:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd509713>.

September Open House Schedule

A schedule listing the dates, times, and locations of the Forest's September public open houses.

About the Open Houses

The Manti-La Sal National Forest is hosting open houses in September 2016 to solicit public input about Forest conditions related to:

- ⇒ Air/Soil/Water
- ⇒ Wildlife and Plants
- ⇒ Recreation
- ⇒ Cultural Resources
- ⇒ Minerals
- ⇒ and more...

The data collected will support the Plan Revision Assessment, which will identify needs for change from the current plan.

 **Questions?**

Contact
Blake Bassett at 435-636-3508
or
mlnplanrevision@fs.fed.us

Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revision Open Houses



PRICE – Tuesday, September 6th, 2016 from 5 to 7:00 p.m.
Carbon County Event Center, 450 S. Fairgrounds Way.

CASTLE DALE – Wednesday, September 7th, 2016 from 5 to 7:00 p.m.
Emery County Courthouse, 75 E. Main.

MANTI – Monday, September 12th, 2016 from 5 to 7:00 p.m.
Sanpete County Courthouse, 160 N. Main.

MOAB – Tuesday, September 13th, 2016 from 5 to 7:00 p.m.
Grand Center, 182 N. 500 W.

MONTICELLO – Wednesday, September 14th, 2016 from 5 to 7:00 p.m.
Canyon Country Discovery Center, 1117 N Main Street.

BLANDING – Thursday, September 15th, 2016 from 5 to 7:00 p.m.
Public Library, 25 W 300 South.

MT. PLEASANT – Thursday, September 29th, 2016 from 5 to 7:00 p.m.
Mt. Pleasant City Building, 115 W. Main Street.

PROVO – Friday, September 30th, 2016 from 5 to 7:00 p.m.
Historic Utah County Courthouse, 51 S. University Avenue.

Want More Information?

 Visit our Plan Revision StoryMap website:
<http://bit.do/manti-lasalplanrevision> or the Forest's Planning webpage:
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning>

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Assessment Informational Flyer

A flyer explaining the 15 topical areas in which the Forest will be collecting data during the September Assessment open house.

Forest Plan Revision— Phase 1: The Assessment



Beginning in August 2016, the Forest Service will collect information from the public about the information below. The Forest will use the information collected to support the Plan Revision Assessment which will inform the Draft Forest Plan.

Forest Plan Revision*:

- ♦ **Air, soil, and water resources** (*including watershed and aquatic ecosystems*)
- ♦ **Outside influences** (*including wildland fire, invasive species, climate change and natural succession*)
- ♦ **Climate change and carbon stocks**
- ♦ **Wildlife and plants** (*including potential species of conservation concern*)
- ♦ **Social, cultural and economic conditions** (*including multiple uses and their contribution to economies*)
- ♦ **Recreation**
- ♦ **Mineral resources**
- ♦ **Infrastructure** (*including recreational facilities, and utilities corridors*)
- ♦ **Tribal, cultural, and historic resources**
- ♦ **Land status and ownership** (*including the interactions between land status, land ownership patterns and Forest management*)
- ♦ **Wilderness** (*including evaluation of Manti-La Sal NF lands using pre-established criteria*)
- ♦ **Wild and Scenic Rivers** (*including evaluation of rivers within the Manti-La Sal NF and using pre-established criteria*)

Please send information pertaining to these topics to the Manti-La Sal Forest Revision team at mlnfplanrevision@fs.fed.us or call **Blake Bassett** at 435-636-3508.

*These topic groupings are derived from the 15 Assessment topics outlined within the 2012 Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.6(b)).

Updated: July 2016

Forest Plan Revision Informational Pamphlet

A tri-fold highlighting information about the Forest Plan revision process, including timeline, phases, and opportunities for public participation.

How long will the revision take?

The Forest Plan will be completed in a four-year timeframe, from the public notice of the Assessment in 2016 to final plan approval in 2019.

Plan Revision Timeline:

Phase I: Assessment (Spring 2016-17)

- Pre-planning (Feb. 2016-June 16)
- Tribal, County, State, and Agency outreach (May 2016-June 16)
- Initial public involvement (July 2016)
- Assessment (August 2016-March 17)
- Need for change from current plan (April 2017-May 17)

Phase II: Plan Revision (Summer 2017-19)

- NEPA – Environmental Impact Statement to develop new Forest Plan and alternatives (May 2017-September 2019)

Phase III: Monitoring (2020+)

- Implementation of the new Forest Plan
- Conduct monitoring in accordance with new Forest Plan
- Conduct biannual review of the new Forest Plan and update if needed

Have questions about Plan Revision?

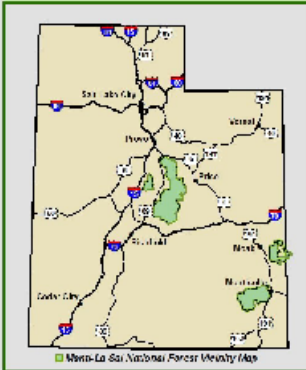
Contact us:

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Forest Plan Revision Team Leader
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Forest Plan Revision Partnership Coordinator
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Planning Webpage: www.fs.usda.gov/mantilasal/
StoryMap: <http://bit.do/manti-lasalplanrevision>




Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revision

>> Information Pamphlet



Caring for the land and serving people

USDA  Manti-La Sal National Forest
599 West Price River Drive
Price, UT 84501

July/August Open House Schedule

A schedule listing the dates, times, and location of the Forest's July and August public open houses.

Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revision Open House Plan Revision

The Manti-La Sal National Forest is revising its Forest Plan and needs your input! The Forest Plan will provide strategic guidance for how the Forest will be managed to allow for multiple uses. Attend one of the following open houses to participate in this critical process:

Price – Tuesday, July 11, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Carbon County Event Center

Castle Dale – Tuesday, July 19, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Emery County Courthouse

Manti – Thursday, July 21, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Sanpete County Courthouse

Blanding – Thursday August 04, 2016 from 5 to 7:00 p.m.
Blanding City Library, 25 W. 300 S.

Monticello – Friday August 05, 2016 from 5 to 7:00 p.m.
Canyon County Discovery Center, 1117 N. Main St.

Moab – Saturday, August 06, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Grand Center, 182 N. 500 W.



Join us anytime during the open house hours. U.S. Forest Service employees will be on-site to answer your Forest Planning questions and gather information about how you use the Forest.

Forest Plan Revision is separate from the Public Lands Initiative (PLI) and the potential Bears Ears National Monument Proposal.

Want More Information? Visit: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning> or visit your local U.S. Forest Service office.

Questions? Contact Blake Bassett at 435-636-3508 or mlnplanrevision@fs.fed.us



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A public participation comment form that collected data concerning the ways in which the public uses the Forest; geographic areas of use; communication preferences; and information concerning current Forest conditions, including positive and negative trends.



Manti-La Sal National Forest Plan Revision

Public Survey



The purpose of this survey is to capture information to support the Assessment Phase of the Plan Revision process and help shape future public outreach efforts. Public comments submitted, including names and street addresses of commenters, will be available for public review as part of the planning record. Individual commenters may request the Forest Service to withhold their name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act by checking the box below. **We will accept anonymous comments.**

I wish to withhold my name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. ☐ Yes

If you wish to submit this document electronically, please scan and email it to: mlfplarevision@fs.fed.us. You can also mail it to: 599 West Price River Drive, Price, UT 84501. Obtain additional copies of this form at the Manti-La Sal National Forest Planning webpage at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning>.

Date:	Name:
Phone (with area code):	
Email:	
Address:	
City/State/ZIP:	

1) How do you use the Forest? (circle all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|------------------|---------------------------------|
| a. Hiking | h. Biking | o. Scientific Research |
| b. Mineral Extraction | i. Fishing | p. Camping |
| c. Timber | j. Rock Climbing | q. Permittee (list type): _____ |
| d. Hunting | k. Grazing | r. Cultural/Traditional Use |
| e. ATV/UTV | l. Snowmobiling | s. Fuel Wood Gathering |
| f. Horseback Riding | m. Photography | t. Sightseeing |
| g. Alpine Skiing / Cross-Country Skiing / Snowboarding | n. Kayaking | u. Other: _____ |

2) Have you noticed any trends (desirable or undesirable) on the Forest regarding wildlife, habitat, or the natural environment? If so, please use the space below to explain:

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Revised 7/07/16

A Question and Answer Form designed to collect questions from the public about plan revision.

The purpose of this form is to capture the public's questions about the Forest Plan Revision process so we can provide an answer and generate a shared understanding of the Plan Revision process. Answers to the questions will be posted on the Manti-La Sal's Forest Plan revision website

(<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning>).

Public comments submitted, including names and street addresses of commenters, will be available for public review as part of the planning record. Individual commenters may request the Forest Service to withhold their name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act by checking the box below. **We will accept anonymous comments.**

I wish to withhold my name or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. ☐ Yes

Date:	Name:
Phone (with area code):	
Email:	
Address:	
City/State/ZIP:	

In the space below, please list any outstanding questions you have about Forest Plan Revision. Answers will be posted publicly to the Manti-La Sal Forest Plan Revision webpage at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning>
